Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support a proposal to grant a CNMI-only resident status to alien parents of U.S. citizen children in the Commonwealth?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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Deficit Spending

Tinian projects to incur a deficit of over $200,000 by the end of this fiscal year.

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Auto Icons

Some cars are so quintessentially American that they should be painted red, white and blue.

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Last Transformers

Shia LaBeouf's days of battling the Decepticons look to be over.

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Rain puts a damper on LibDay parade

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The 2011 Liberation Day celebration on island was greeted with heavy downpour early yesterday morning before the start of and toward the end of the ceremony, drenching marchers and the few hundred spectators lined up on Beach Road to watch the annual parade.

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Falun Dafa or Falun Gong practitioners on Saipan perform traditional Chinese dances during yesterday's sunny and then rainy Fourth of July Parade on Beach Road.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

KKMP's 'musical' float bags first

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

A float that pays tribute to local musicians and performers was adjudged as the winner of the float competition in the 2011 Liberation Day Parade.

The KKMP Radio/Domatsuri Float bested four other contenders, bringing together old and new generations of musicians, including David Peter and Felix Fitial of the Remataul band, Joe Limes of The Islanders, Franklin and Vincent Limes of Pala Pala, and Marvin Guerrero.

The float also featured 15 members of the Domatsuri Team and 25 students of the Nagoya Domanaka Team, who performed for the crowd at the Liberation Day carnival grounds.

The float, which also showed several individuals having a barbecue to depict island living, earned the nod of the three judges,

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Radio station KKMP's traditional village-themed float, with actual song and dance performances and barbecue, is this year's winner of the Fourth of July Parade float competition.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Fitial hires ex-governor Babauta for $1

» Former governor will be special adviser for health matters
» Former DLNR secretary retained as CNMI veterinarian

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial confirmed yesterday that he has hired former governor Juan N. Babauta as his special adviser for health matters for a bargain price of just a $1 annually.

Babauta

Fitial said Babauta has been helping him put together the health issues that he will be discussing at an upcoming meeting of the Region 9 Federal Regional Council in San Francisco,

See FITIAL on Page 4

Local

Tinian projects to incur $200K deficit in 2011

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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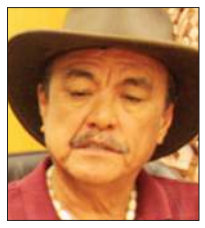
REPORTER

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz disclosed yesterday that the municipality projects to incur an operational deficit of over $200,000 by the end of this fiscal year in September as a result of budget cuts being enforced by the Fitial administration.

The Tinian municipality was allocated just $4.2 million for fiscal year 2011, covering personnel costs and all other expenses. This is a steep drop when compared to fiscal year 2006 when revenue from casino operation stood at $4.9 million.

Dela Cruz disclosed that since last year, about a hundred employees have been removed from its payroll. From about 200 employees since he assumed office, the Tinian municipality now employs less than a hundred people.


Dela Cruz

Besides the workforce reduction, hiring and travel freezes were also implemented, and that includes the mayor's trips outside the island. Dela Cruz said his office takes advantage of video-teleconferencing for meetings with Saipan officials.

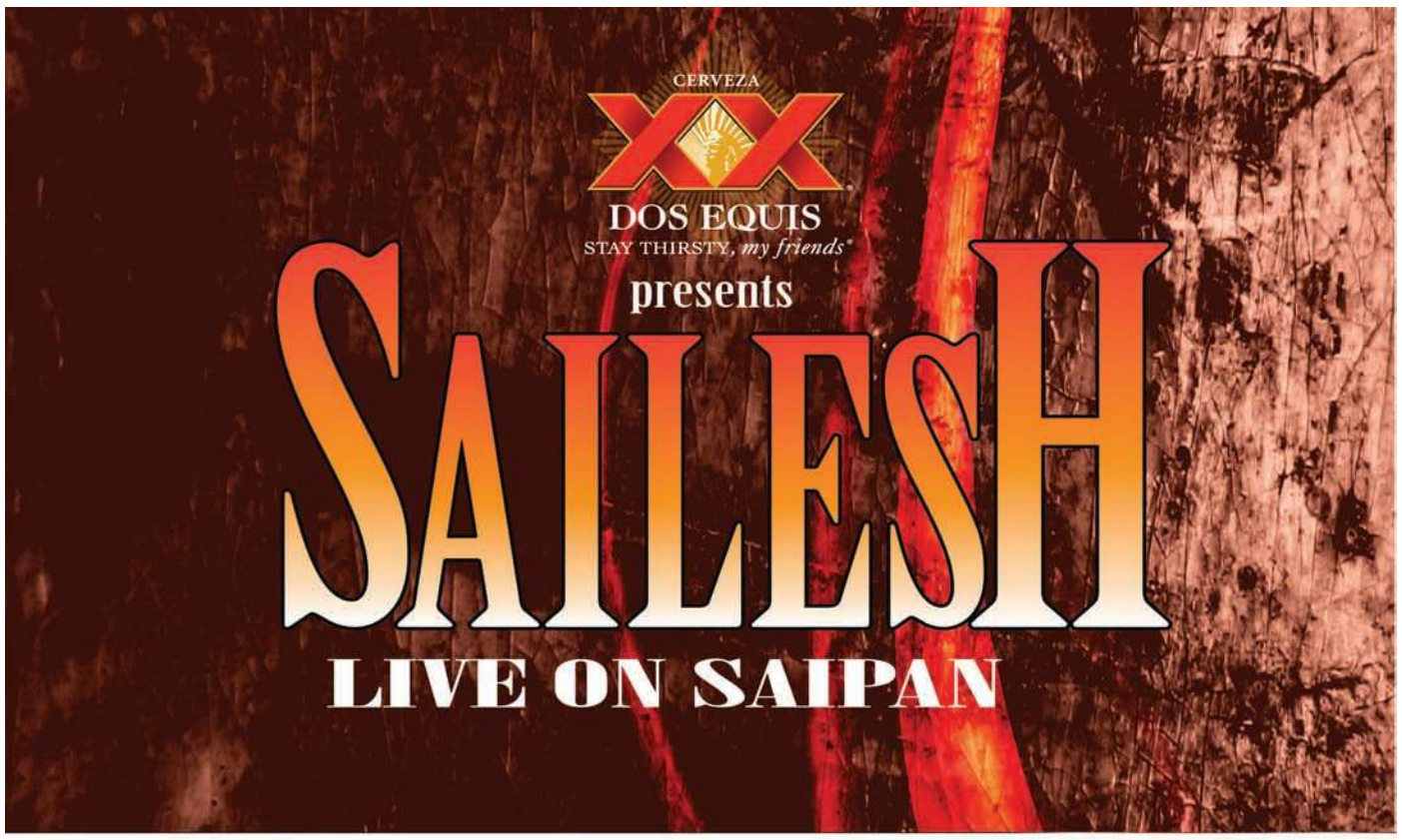
"We're struggling but we're making good with whatever we have. We also appeal to the central government for assistance, if not for cash flow, then at least to allow us to overrun our operation a little bit," said Dela Cruz during yesterday's celebration of Liberation Day.

This drastic reduction in the his workforce has affected the operation and programs of his office, Dela Cruz said, but he is thankful for the cooperation and understanding of residents who continue to volunteer in community programs such as environmental cleanups.

"There's not enough money and I cannot continue to hire. Our people have to put in extra hours and double service without pay [just to help the operation]. We're very fortunate that we do have a lot of retirees and youth volunteers," he added.

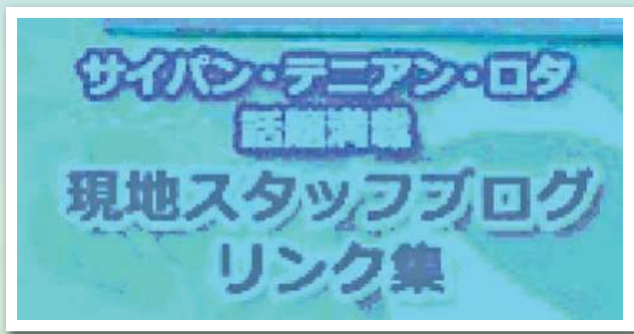
Dela Cruz admitted that operating in deficit is not permissible, but because of the current situation of the government this may be allowed.

To address the operational deficit, Tinian has to deduct it from the municipality's future budget allocation or find the money to pay back the $200,000 shortfall.



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

MVA Offers Members Japan Web Exposure



Members of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) have a new avenue to directly reach potential customers in Japan with the launch of a new blog page on the MVA Japan website.

The blog page offers optional tour operators, hotels, dive shops, souvenir shops and other members direct access to travelers. The grass roots access provides travelers with details and updated information on local members in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The page is promoted with a web banner on the MVA's Japanese-language site, where is it linked, and can also be viewed at http://japan.mymarianas.com/japanese/blog/index.html.

Membership in the Marianas Visitors Authority is open to individuals, companies, and organizations. The annual rate of $100 and benefits include promotional opportunities, in-depth industry statistics, voting rights, and others. To register, contact the MVA at 670.664.3210.

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

Finance secretary: Govt scraping the bottom

‘NMC has undergone a big transformation’

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The 36-page report submitted by the visiting team from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges said that the Northern Marianas College has undergone a transformation where a culture of evidence and decision-making is now being encouraged at all levels.

The ACCJC team, composed of Dr. Steven Kinsella, William McGinnis, Susan Murata, and Dr. Worku Negash, visited the college on April 13 and 14 this year. It was learned that the team interviewed between 60 and 75 employees of the college during these visits and received a considerable amount of documents that justified all the progress and development done for NMC to rectify the deficiencies earlier cited by the accreditation commission.

The team was reportedly impressed with the esprit de corps displayed by the faculty, staff, administrators, and students during the course of the visit and lauded the attendance of over a hundred people during a forum on campus.

The team, in its findings, concluded that the evidence presented by NMC was valid and sufficient and thus concluded that the institution met all the eligibility requirements and standards required for accreditation.

The group also lauded the “accurate” report submitted by NMC to the commission, the participation of over 66 faculty and staff in the college accreditation reaffirmation action plan team, and the revision and adoption of over 30 new policies, many devoted to remedy specific issues related to accreditation.

“Decision-making has shifted to a collaborative effort involving all constituency groups on campus. This practice must continue and become an institutionalized process. College leaders at all levels expressed an understanding and need to continue to use data to drive decisions and the processes at the college promote use of data for decision-making,” the report’s findings indicated.

The members also specifically discussed each team recommendations and highlighted the work done by NMC to address each deficiency. The report indicated that the college “met” all recommendations earlier cited in the show-cause order.

Last Friday, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges placed NMC’s accreditation status from show-cause to the less severe sanction of probation. A report is due in October from NMC.

Probation is a level issued when the commission finds that an institution deviates significantly from the eligibility criteria, standards, or policies, or fails to respond to actions and conditions imposed by the commission.

» Estimated monthly revenue is $9M, but payroll alone is $6M

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI government is “scraping the bottom” as its estimated monthly revenue is only about $9 million and even fluctuating, yet the payroll per month alone is $6 million, according to Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson.

Larson disclosed the government’s revenue and its obligations when asked by Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo during a status hearing last week in the NMI Retirement Fund’s lawsuit against the government.

Larson said the $9 million monthly revenue comes from the Business Gross Receipts taxes, wage and salary taxes, Commonwealth Health Center services, and various other government services.

Larson

In response to assistant attorney general Meaghan Hassel-Shearer’s inquiry about payments, Larson said the government is paying now $1 million per month to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., leaving the government’s monthly revenue at $8 million.

Monthly payments to CHC range from $1 million to $2 million, she added.

By deducting $1 million to $2 million from the $8 million, the government is left with just $6 million to $7 million, Larson said.

Hassel-Shearer asked Larson if, after deducting the estimated $6 million for payroll per month from that $6 million to $7 million remaining, she feels there is almost nothing left.

“Yes, we are scraping bottom,” the Finance secretary replied.

When asked how much the government owes others, not counting the Retirement Fund, Larson replied: “$80 million.”

Attorney Viola Alepuyo, counsel for the Fund, asked if Fund payments are considered a priority under the unofficial “life and death” policy to receive payments.

“That would not be possible,” the secretary candidly answered.

From a revenue of more than $200 million just over a decade ago, the CNMI government is now making do with revenue projected to reach just $102 million in fiscal year 2010. The steep revenue plunge is due to the death of the garment industry in 2009, consistently low tourist arrivals, and the ripple effects of the persistently anemic U.S. economy.

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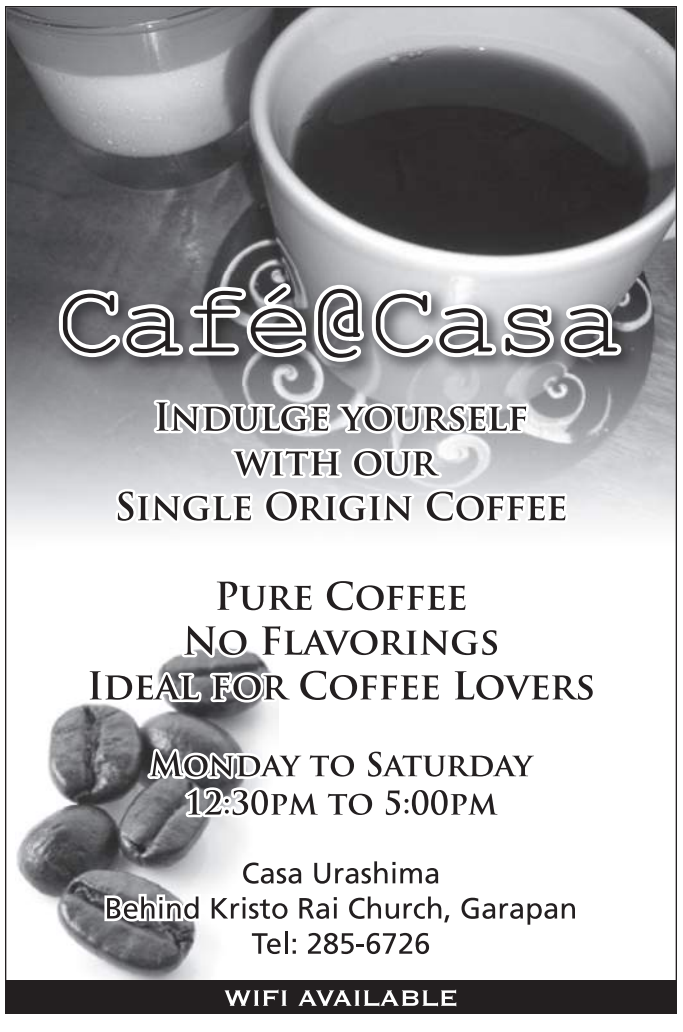

Census: US seen to be world's 3rd most populous through 2050

Through 2050, the United States is projected to remain in third place behind India and China among the world's most populous countries, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

These findings are derived from the population estimates and projections for 228 countries and areas released last week through the Census Bureau's International Data Base. This release includes revisions for 19 countries and provides information on population size and growth, mortality, fertility and net migration.

"The Census Bureau has been preparing individual country population estimates and projections for more than 50 years," said Loraine West, a demographer in the Census Bureau's Population Division. "Current estimates and projections are provided through 2050 and are routinely updated as new data become available."

Although the United States will maintain its third place position, the ranking of the countries with the 10 largest populations in the world is expected to change over the next few decades.

The top 10 countries each currently have at least 125 million inhabitants. Russia and Japan are projected to soon fall out of this group because of persistent low fertility rates, which have already caused their populations to decline. Russia's decline is also due in part to relatively high mortality.

The countries expected to advance in the rankings are those with high fertility. Ethiopia, in particular, with an estimated fertility rate of 6.0 children per woman in 2011, is projected to vault from 13th to seventh on the list of most populous countries by 2050, tripling in total population from 91 million to 278 million. Nigeria also has a relatively high estimated fertility rate of 5.7 and is projected to more than double its population by 2050 from 166 million to 402 million. Currently seventh on the list of most populous countries, by 2050, Nigeria is projected to climb to fourth.

Other developing countries, such as Bangladesh, Brazil and Indonesia, while continuing to grow, will drop slightly in the rankings given that their fertility already is lower than Ethiopia and Nigeria.

China and India, the only countries with more than a billion people, are expected to continue to occupy the top two positions, although their order is projected to switch by 2025 when India is expected to overtake China as the world's most populous country.

By 2050, the Philippines will round out the world's most populous countries, reaching 10th on the list with a projected population of 172 million.

The 19 countries included in this update are Afghanistan, Angola, Azerbaijan, Comoros, Curacao, French Polynesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Netherlands, Nigeria, Qatar, Singapore, Sint Maarten, Suriname, United States and the British Virgin Islands.

The Census Bureau's International Data Base includes projections by sex and age for countries and other areas with populations of 5,000 or more. Population projections incorporate assumptions about future trends in fertility, mortality and migration. In general, fertility and mortality are projected based on recent trends and migration for each country typically reflects recent trends but also considers longer-term levels of migration. The level of uncertainty is greater for projections further in the future. ***(U.S. Census)***

US govt wants continued detention of suspect in driver's license scam

The U.S. government wants the continued detention of one of the five suspects in a driver's license scam at the Department of Public Safety pending trial.

Assistant U.S. attorney Kirk Schuler asked the federal court to detain Mohammad Jahangir Miah as keeps violating his terms of pretrial release by committing other crimes.

Schuler said that Miah had been ordered detained by two federal judges, but after spending almost three months in detention by March of 2011, and possibly spending another three months in detention while waiting for a June 20 trial date at the time, a third federal judge granted him relief.

"He has broken local and federal laws and his continued release will only result in continued criminal activity that is a danger to the community and a violation of his pretrial release conditions," Schuler said.

In addition to Miah's lengthy runins with the law and criminal history, Schuler said the suspect was on pre-trial release when he was alleged to have committed the crimes in this case.

Schuler said there is clear and convincing evidence that Miah violated his conditions of pre-trial release by violating narcotics laws and by violating his home detention condition. He said there is probable cause to believe that Miah was in possession of marijuana on May 24, 2011.

Moreover, the prosecutor added, Miah attempted to influence a witness' testimony—a clear violation of local and federal law, as well as a violation of his pretrial release conditions.

"Local and federal law prohibits the tampering of witnesses," he said.

The violation hearing was supposed to take place last Thursday, but Miah, through counsel Joseph Horey, asked to postpone the hearing. The hearing was later moved to July 21, 2011 at 1:30pm.

Miah is currently on pre-trial release awaiting a Sept. 12, 2011 trial date. His four co-defendants—William A. Hocog, Tahira Dolores Miah, Hongmei Sun, and Hui Qiang Yan— have already pleaded guilty and are awaiting sentencing.

According to the prosecution, Sun and Yan introduced foreign nationals as driver's license applicants to the Miah couple in order for the applicants to illegally obtain driver's licenses with the help of Hocog. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

WELCOME HOME

Sgt. Kennedy Dlg. Benjamin is reunited with his parents, Nick W. and Elaine DLG. Benjamin in Honolulu after completing his one-year tour of duty in Iraq. Benjamin is with the 305th Company MPAD, a Reserve Unit out of Hawaii.

NICHOLAS WEILBACHER BENJAMIN

RAIN

From Page 1

A portion of Beach Road was closed to traffic as various marching groups took part in the parade that is billed as the largest crowd-drawing community event in the CNMI.

This year's festivities, which commemorate the 65th anniversary when Camp Susupe was liberated on July 4, 1946, had the theme "A Band of Arms Liberating Communities to Freedom, the Island Way."

Deafening police sirens around 10am signaled the start of the parade, which snaked from the National Office Supply up to the Liberation Day carnival grounds at the Garapan Fishing Base, according to Parade Committee chair Donald Crisostomo.

The parade lineup was led by Saipan Mayor Donald Flores and 2011 Liberation Day Committee overall chair Jonas Barcinas, who both came out of the car to shake hands with spectators.

Next in the lineup were Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, other government officials, and this year's grand marshals: Ruth Coleman of Saipan, Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz of Tinian, Mayor Melchor Mendiola of Rota, and Daniel O. Kaipat of the Northern Islands.

The dignitaries were followed by at least 22 marching groups, some of which gave performances for the crowd at the Garapan Fishing Base.

These groups included the Department of Public Safety Color Guards, Public School System JROTC Multiple School Units, CNMI Boy Scouts of America, New Generation, Hopwood Jr. High School Leadership Corps, Man'amko King Jesus Pangelinan and Queen Siyau Muna with their Royal Court, Saipan Football Association, Seventh-Day Adventist Pathfinders Club, Saipan Falun Dafa Association, Uncle Ben's Academy with United Filipino Organization, Saipan Little League and Big League all-stars, Saipan Awaodori Team, Japanese Society of the NMI, CNMI Red Cross, Emergency Response Vehicles from multi-government units, and Disturbed Car Club.

Some of the groups had their own gimmicks, such as the loud maneuvers of the Matua Riders, Hog and Manelo Riders; traditional dances, songs, and chants by the Chuukese Catholic Association; the Rainbow Little Singers from Daejeon in Korea; and the 3,000 items given away by Coca-Cola and Foremost Foods Saipan.

Five groups also participated in the float competition. They are the KKMP Radio Station with the Domatsuri and Domanaka Teams from Japan; the Saipan-Palau Residents Club; Choll a Beluu Club; the Santa Remedios Youth Club; and the Saipan and Music Dance Studio.

The Liberation Day program, which was scheduled after the parade, had to be put off due to the heavy rain, prompting the audience to seek shelter in buildings and at the booths in the carnival grounds.

After the downpour, the celebration proceeded with the program that involved mostly messages from government officials present at the event.

Liberation Day messages

In his remarks, Fitial said Liberation Day celebrates the idea of freedom and individual rights as well as the Commonwealth's reaffirmation and renewed commitment to the principles of a free society.

The governor noted the "overwhelming transformation" of the islands over the past 67 years, with the closure of Camp Susupe denoting "a new beginning for the indigenous people."

"So today, let us pay tribute to the men, women, and children of Camp Susupe, and to their enduring legacy," said Fitial. "Their trials and tribulations are the true hallmarks of the way of life we have come to know in our islands.

For his part, Flores emphasized that lives have been sacrificed to attain the freedom that people enjoy today and he thanked the soldiers who died liberating the islands, their families, and friends.

As he called on the people to reflect on the occasion and remember the hardships that came with the islands' freedom, Barcinas expressed hope that the community will strive to succeed despite the economic challenges ahead.

KKMP

From Page 1

who gave it a total of 271 points.

"It's a privilege and honor to be awarded first place in the float competition," said Rosemond Santos, president of Blue Continent Communications that owns the radio station.

Santos said that when they decided to come up with the concept for their float entry, they thought of paying tribute to local musicians pioneers.

It took them three days to make the float, Santos disclosed.

"We found out that there were no commemoration or tribute ever made to musicians of the Northern Mariana Islands so we decided to make that part of our float coupled with the theme of the Liberation," Santos told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that they "brought the old and new generations of musicians together."

Gordon Marciano of Pacific Development Inc. said the float shows that they're "liberating communities the musical way."

According to Marciano, the Japanese delegation, which arrived Sunday, expressed interest to participate in the parade through the float competition.

"Japan has had good relationship with the CNMI since they were brought in through the Chamolinian Cultural Village program some eight years ago. With the help of the Marianas Visitors Authority and the Mayor's Office, we continue to foster that good relationship," he said.

The Choll A Beluu Cultural Dance Group float came in second with 256 points. The Saipan-Palau Residents Club won third place with 239 points.

Prizes for the three winning floats are $2,000, $1,500, and $1,000, respectively.

Donald Crisostomo, Parade Committee chair, was pleased with the parade turnout. He said only the Inatuas Dancers did not make it to the parade while Sta. Remedios was able to participate despite a minor problem.

"We started on time and the only delay we had was due to [Mother] Nature. The parade was generally smooth," he said.

FITIAL

From Page 1

California.

The Federal Regional Council is a consortium of 19 separate federal departments and agencies representing nearly 30 different program offices in Region 9, which covers Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and the Outer Pacific Islands.

Fitial said this will be an important meeting, and Babauta will be of big help.

"He has master's degree in health, and he has done a lot of research. I asked him if I can bring him in. He said he will help me out, but just to be official, he asked to be given a $1 per annum contract," Fitial told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at the Fourth of July Parade yesterday.

Babauta has a master's degree in health planning and administration from the University of Cincinnati. The former governor also has a bachelor's degree in American history and political science, and another master's degree in political science, both from Eastern New Mexico University.

Fitial said that Babauta discussed his $1 contract during a meeting yesterday morning with members of the House leadership. Babauta said he could not comment at this time.

Before going to San Francisco for the Region 9 Federal Regional Council Meeting, Fitial will be going to Nagoya for a heart treatment. He is set to leave today. He will also go to Washington, D.C. and Utah. ***(See separate story on Page 5)***

Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos also said yesterday that they have decided to hire former Department of Lands and Natural Resources secretary Dr. Ignacio "Ike" Dela Cruz as CNMI veterinarian.

Inos said they have yet to finalize the contract terms and conditions.

At the same time, Inos and Fitial denied reports that the administration hired some 800 new employees during the austerity period, when many employees are subjected to a 16-hour cut every two weeks.

Inos said the government only hires critical service employees, whether new or replacements.

The lieutenant governor said 800 is about three-fourths of the entire Executive Branch employees, estimated at 1,200.

WITH NO EVIDENCE, NO WITNESSES

FBI says it is impossible to bring charges

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Without evidence, victims, witnesses, or a confession, it is impossible to bring charges in cases like the disappearance of sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk, according to FBI special agent Tom Simon yesterday.

Simon, however, did not elaborate on why the girls have not been not found and no one has been arrested yet despite several tips provided to the FBI and the Department of Public Safety just days after the disappearance.

"The good news is that the investigation continues," the Hawaii-based Simon told *Saipan Tribune* in an email.

Police officer Jason Tarkong said yesterday that DPS Commissioner Ramon Mafnas did not provide him any updates regarding the investigation and search.

Tarkong said he also has no information whether DPS conducted a search operation over the weekend and yesterday.

DPS, meanwhile, is mum about any developments on the DPS employee who refused to undergo a lie detector test as part of the investigation into the girls' disappearance.

Several days or weeks before the May 25 disappearance of the Luhk sisters, sources said the DPS employee's wife and children left for the U.S. mainland.

This DPS employee, sources said, is somehow "related" to the missing girls.

Mafnas has refused to comment whether this employee is on the investigators' top list of "persons of interest."

The search for the 10-year-old Faloma and 9-year-old Maleina enters its sixth week tomorrow, Wednesday.

Central govt absorbs PSS' $1.8M debt with CUC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The central government has agreed to absorb the $1.8 million the Public School System owes the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., according to PSS finance director Richard Waldo.

A memorandum of agreement between the administration and PSS is now being finalized, Waldo told the Board of Education during Thursday's meeting.

Waldo said that PSS is now free from any unpaid obligation to the utilities corporation and is only expecting the new billing for the current period.

"As of today [Thursday], we don't owe CUC except for the running month. This is because the central government will absorb PSS' obligation to the utilities firm," Waldo said.

He disclosed that PSS is billed about $300,000 monthly for the power and water consumption of its schools.

If not for the increased power rates, Waldo believes that PSS could realize substantial savings in utility consumption as a result of the energy conservation efforts being implemented in all public schools.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that a strict power conservation plan is being observed and PSS expects consumption to significantly go down as most schools will shut off their power during summer except for campuses with summer programs and ongoing repairs and renovation.

Education officials said that once solar panels are installed in schools, power consumption is expected to further decline to about $90,000 a month for all public schools.

Waldo also told *Saipan Tribune* that PSS has settled its unpaid rent and utilities obligation to the Retirement Fund, which owns the building it occupies on Capital Hill.

A new lease agreement between the two has yet to be finalized, however. Both PSS and the Retirement Fund have issued requests for proposals, with the school system seeking new space for its central offices while the Fund is looking for potential tenants.

PSS is leasing both the second and third floors of the Retirement Fund Building for its central offices and Board of Education. The system pays about $20,000 in building lease and about $10,000 in utility consumption each month. Its lease expired last April and was only extended for two months.

Fund officials disclosed that PSS had asked for a lower monthly lease but the Fund would only agree to reduce the rate with some conditions.

Fitial leaves today for heart treatment in Japan, before going to US mainland

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial leaves today for an estimated three-week off-island trip that will start in Nagoya, Japan where he is set to have a coronary angiogram, before going to San Francisco in California, Washington, D.C., and then to Utah for different meetings.

If his physician at the Nagoya University Hospital determines that he needs heart bypass surgery, then he will have to go back to Nagoya for this operation after his U.S. trips.

"I'm having my angiogram, to check my heart," Fitial said in an interview at the Fourth of July Parade yesterday.

He said he will keep Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos apprised of his medical condition.

From Nagoya, Fitial said he will be going to San Francisco, California to attend another meeting of the Region 9 Federal Regional Council.

He will then proceed to Washington, D.C. mainly to testify on a bill that Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan introduced, and on the implementation of U.S. Public Law 110-229, which placed CNMI immigration under federal control.

"I am testifying against the bill introduced by Kilili," the governor told reporters.

Sablan's HR 1466 proposes a "CNMI-only resident status" for four groups of people, including those who have U.S. citizen children or spouses.

From the nation's capital, the governor will travel to Utah to attend the National Governors Association Annual Meeting.

First lady Josie Fitial will be accompanying the governor during the entire trip.

USO's Movie in the Park comes to Saipan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

For the first time the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, in collaboration with the United Services Organization, is bringing the "Movie in the Park" event to Saipan.

The event, which will be held at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater on July 8 at 6pm, will feature the 2010 animated film *Despicable Me*.

USO is a private, nonprofit organization that provides morale and recreational services to members of the U.S. military, with programs in 140 centers worldwide.

Tan Siu Lin Foundation manager Ed Arriola, Jr. said that, depending on the response of the community and the weather, *Despicable Me* will be followed by several more movies.

"We'll have a giant screen set up at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater so the public can enjoy the movie. Tan Siu Lin Foundation is very pleased to bring this event to the island," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Arriola, "Movie in the Park" is currently offered in Guam's Agana's Skinner Plaza.

"I went to one of these shows in Guam awhile back and was amazed at how much I was enjoying it with my friends," he said.

"This is also another opportunity for the CNMI community to come out and get together. We're inviting the entire island to this event. It's free, it's a movie, it's perfect for a date, for the kids, and for the entire family," he added.

Leigh Graham, USO Guam director, said the USO is very excited to come back to Saipan to present the event with the Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

"This is a unique way of showing our service members, veterans, and their families how much we appreciate them. After all, it's the families that give so much as well," she said.

Graham thanked Tan Siu Lin Foundation president Jerry Tan "for reaching out to us and working to help launch this first movie in the park."

"We're also bringing great giveaways for the children and promise a truly memorable experience for the entire community," added Graham.

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JOINT NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION

by the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9 (WTR-5)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

CNMI Division of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 501304
Saipan, MP 96950

On Application for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit to Discharge Pollutants to Waters of the United States

On Request for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification

Public Notice #: MP-11-W-06
Public Notice Date: July 5, 2011
Comment Period Closes: August 4, 2011

The U.S. EPA and the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) are jointly issuing the following notice of proposed action under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the CNMI Water Quality Standards. EPA is issuing a notice of proposed action to issue a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit MP0020401 to the following discharger subject to certain effluent limitations and other conditions: Office of Emergency Response, US EPA Region 9, 75 Hawthorne St (SFD9-2), San Francisco CA 94105.

The Emergency Response Office (ERO) has identified a plume of subsurface oil originating from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) Power Plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base, Saipan. ERO is installing a series of subsurface trench to intercept and recover oil, treat the groundwater, and discharge treated water. The contaminated groundwater will be treated by an API type oil/water separator and granular activated carbon units.

CNMI DEQ is considering a request to certify the discharges described above, pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA. The certification will set forth any limitations and monitoring requirements necessary to ensure compliance with water quality standards under Section 303, area-wide waste treatment management plans under Section 208(e), effluent limitations under Sections 301 and 302, standards of performance under Section 306, prohibitions, effluent standards or pretreatment standards under Section 307 of the CWA, and any other appropriate requirement of CNMI law.

CNMI DEQ may certify conditions that are more stringent than those in the draft permit under its CWA Section 401 authority. For each more stringent condition, CNMI DEQ shall cite the CWA or CNMI law references upon which the condition is based. Review of appeals of limitations and conditions attributable to CNMI DEQ certification shall be made through the applicable CNMI procedures.

EPA is soliciting comments on the proposal. EPA will consider all comments received during comment period before taking final action. To submit comments, or to obtain additional information including the proposed permit and administrative record, please contact:

John Tinger, Tinger.John@epa.gov or (415) 972-3518
EPA Region IX (WTR-5)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Website: http://www.epa.gov/region09/water/npdes/pubnotices.html

CHAMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Prevailing wage survey, freight service

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guam Employers Council executive director Andy Andrus will speak on his contract to conduct a comprehensive survey of prevailing wages and benefits in the CNMI, while Pelley Enterprises president Tony Pellegrino will talk about his cargo airline during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's monthly general membership meeting tomorrow.

The Wednesday luncheon will be held at the Saipan Grand Hotel in Susupe starting at 11:30am.

During the Chamber meeting, Pellegrino will present an overview of his project to introduce freight cargo service between Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam through a new cargo carrier airline, Cargo Air Bridge.

The Chamber, the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 150 members, is expected to spend some $20,000 for the prevailing wage survey, including its contract with the Guam Employers Council to do the actual survey.

The Guam Employers Council and its current executive director have been conducting surveys of wages and benefits in the Western Pacific for some 25 years.

The Chamber's survey is separate from the Fitial administration's own planned prevailing wage survey. The Fitial administration said it will go on with the survey even if U.S. Labor denies its application for a $40,701.99 grant for the survey.

Immediately after the Chamber's general membership meeting, which ends at 1pm, the Chamber will host a free presentation at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, also in Susupe, at 1:30pm, where Andrus will provide more information and explanations regarding the prevailing wage survey.

Chamber members will meet with representatives of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Society for Human Resources Management, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and other employers and human resources managers to learn how the survey will be conducted.

The purpose of the survey is to measure current base rates of pay and benefits currently in effect among private and public employers in the CNMI for a very broad range of jobs.

In a statement yesterday, the Chamber said the Standard Occupation Classification published by the U.S. Department of Labor is being used as the standard for the job codes, titles and descriptions, as recommended by the U.S. Department of Labor.

All organizations and companies that fully participate in the survey will receive copies of the results.

There is no charge for participation and the data gathered is 100 percent confidential as per contractual agreement. The survey will be copyrighted, said the Chamber.

A detailed, graphic explanation of the instructions, data entry forms and procedures for submitting data will be provided in the presentation.

"In the effort to make the results appropriate for prevailing wage determinations, and more specifically for temporary immigrant labor applications with USCIS, standards prescribed by the US DOL for such procedures are being addressed. Accordingly, the rates of pay and benefits data for persons holding H-1, H-1B and H-2B visas are to be excluded," the Chamber said.

RELATED NEWS

- Chamber to host Survey of Wages, Salaries and Benefits forum. PAGE 13
- SHRM presents CNMI Prevailing Wage Survey. PAGE 13

2011 – 2012 Application For Free School Meals is now available at all public schools and at the Public School System Central Office

PUBLIC RELEASE STATEMENT REGARDING THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH AND BREAKFAST PROGRAMS AVAILABLE AT LOCAL SCHOOLS

The Public School System Food and Nutrition Services Program today announced its policy for children *unable* to pay the full price of meals served under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. Regardless of financial standing and participation in programs such as WIC or NAP, a new free school meal application must be completed and submitted each school year to receive free school meal benefits.

Meal prices for the 2011-2012 school year will remain the same as the previous year. Students may buy a subsidized school breakfast for $0.50. Additional breakfasts can be purchased for $1.80 at elementary schools and $2.20 at secondary schools. Students may purchase a school lunch for $0.75. Additional lunches can be purchased for $2.85 at elementary schools and $3.40 at secondary schools.

Application forms are now available at the PSS Food and Nutrition Office and are being sent to all public schools with a notice to parents or guardians. Applications are available at Tinian Elementary School and Rota Junior High School as well. To apply for free meals, households must fill out the application and return it to the school or to the PSS Food and Nutrition Services office. The information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school or other program officials. Applications may be submitted at any time during the school year. The application can be downloaded at http://www.cnmipss.org/state-level-programs/administrative-services/food-and-nutritional-servicess/

To obtain free meals for children for whose households receive Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) benefits, an adult member needs only to list the names of the school children, give a food stamp case number for each child, sign his/her name and return the application to the school office. If *any* of the students do not have a valid food stamp number, then the entire application must be completed with accompanying verification documents.

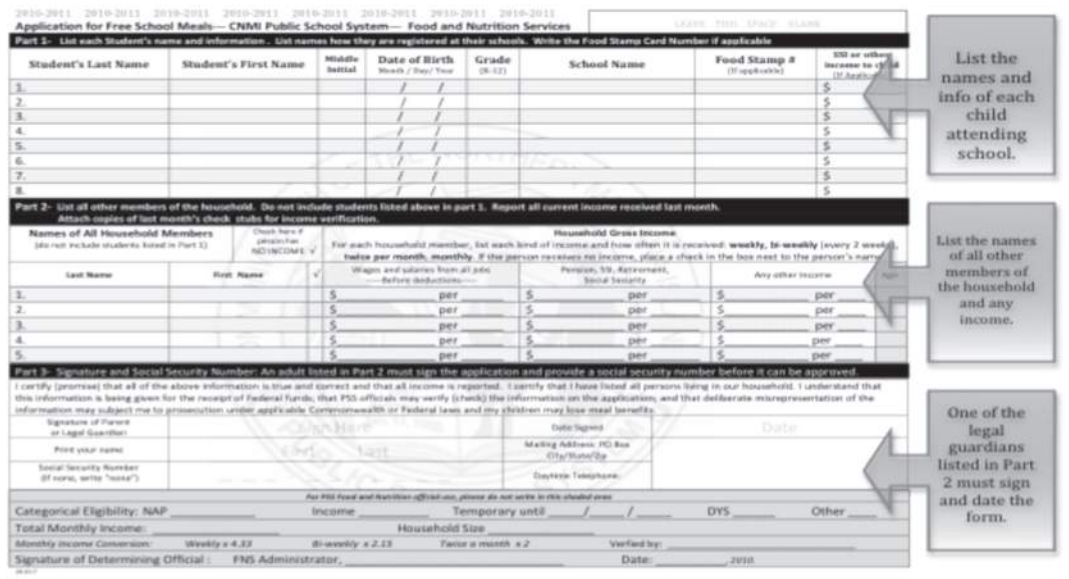
For the school officials to determine eligibility for free meals of households not receiving Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) benefits, the household must provide the following information requested on the application: names of all household members, and the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. In lieu of a social security number, the household may indicate that the signer does not possess a social security number. Also, the income received by each household member must be provided by amount and source (wages, welfare, child support, etc.). For verification purposes, copies of the most recent check stubs must be included with the application. Failure to include these items will delay the processing of the application.

Under the provisions of the free meal policy, the PSS Food and Nutrition Services Manager will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent or guardian is dissatisfied with the ruling of the official, he/she may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. If the parent/guardian wishes to make a formal appeal, he/she may make a request either orally or in writing to: Mr. Dale Roberts, PSS Food and Nutrition Services Program Manager located on the third floor of the NMI Retirement Building.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size changes, the family should contact the FNS Office. Such changes may make the household eligible for reduced price meals or free meals if the household income falls at or below the IEG levels listed in the chart, and they may reapply at that time.

In most cases, foster children are also eligible for these benefits. If a household has foster children living with them and wishes to apply for free or reduced price meals, the household should complete an application for a family of one or contact the school for more information.

The information provided by the household on the application is confidential. PSS is authorized to release student free and school meal eligibility status to persons directly connected with the administration and enforcement of federal or state educational programs.


Application for Free School Meals— CNMI Public School System— Food and Nutrition Services
Part 1- List each Student's name and information. List names how they are registered at their schools. Write the Food Stamp Card Number if applicable
Student's Last Name
Student's First Name
Middle Initial
Date of Birth
Grade
School Name
Food Stamp #
Part 2- List all other members of the household. Do not include students listed above in part 1. Report all current income received last month.
Attach copies of last month's check stubs for income verification.
Names of All Household Members
Household Gross Income
Part 3- Signature and Social Security Number: An adult listed in Part 2 must sign the application and provide a social security number before it can be approved.
Categorical Eligibility: NAP
Income
Temporary until
DYS
Other
Total Monthly Income:
Household Size
Signature of Determining Official :
FNS Administrator,
Date:
List the names and info of each child attending school.
List the names of all other members of the household and any income.
One of the legal guardians listed in Part 2 must sign and date the form.

2011-2012 Federal Income Guidelines (IEG) for Free Meal Eligibility. If your household income falls within these guidelines your children MAY be eligible to receive free school meals.

Household Size	Annual	Monthly	2x per Month	Bi-weekly	Weekly
1	$ 14,157	$ 1,180	$ 590	$ 545	$ 273
2	19,123	1,594	797	736	368
3	24,089	2,008	1,004	927	464
4	29,055	2,422	1,211	1,118	559
5	34,021	2,836	1,418	1,309	655
6	38,987	3,249	1,625	1,500	750
7	43,953	3,663	1,832	1,691	846
8	48,919	4,077	2,039	1,882	941
Add'l member, Add.....	+ 4,966	+ 414	+ 207	+ 191	+ 96

Any questions regarding the application should be directed to the determining official.

Children who received free meals last school year will receive free meals for up to 30 days after the opening of school on September 6, 2011. **To avoid delays in free school meal services due to processing, all applications should be completed and submitted to PSS FNS before September 23, 2011.**

Any questions regarding the application should be directed to the determining official. The PSS FNS office can be reached on Saipan: 237-3053/3060/3058/3050/3033/3055 or fax 664-3717, Tinian: 237-4106/4105, Rota: 237-4046/4041/4042

Fund sets new fee for members, retirees

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Retirement Fund will soon charge a fee for members and retirees who habitually ask for changes to their pension checks—an act described by the Fund officials as "consistent abuse" of its policy on amendments and change.

In an emergency meeting Friday noon, the board of trustees disclosed that regulation would be drafted for formal board adoption, with a planned effective date of Oct. 1, the start of fiscal year 2012.

Fund administrator Richard Villagomez reported to the board that this significant number of requests for changes entails additional works and uses up "too much" of the Fund's resources, including personnel time and agency supplies.

He proposed a $25 fee for any member or retiree who will request for the early release of checks in cases of emergency and recommended other fees ranging from $5 to $25 for any other changes that are deemed "frequent."

It was learned Friday that some members or retirees seem to have the habit of changing things with respect to their pension rates just days before the 15th and 30th of each month, resulting in more clerical works for the Fund's employees.

Villagomez said that "too much" changes often result in redoing the whole process, which is time consuming and a waste of resources.

In the proposed regulation, changes will only be allowed perhaps every six months or during the annual update of members' records.

Villagomez stressed that the new fee does not aim to generate revenue for the agency. More importantly, it aims to stop the "abuses" and change the behavior of members and retirees, he said.

Board counsel Viola Alepuyo said the proposed regulation would also result in substantial savings for the Fund in terms of resources and supplies.

Board member Adelina Roberto supports the new fee, citing the practice of commercial banks when it comes to making changes in checks.

"Because it costs us…we have to set a fee," said Roberto.

The Fund processes over 600 paper checks every 15th and 30th of the month for members and retirees.

Other streamlining measures

Last week, CNMI Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo gave the Fund an oral order to set aside a specific amount for its defined benefit members to protect the Fund's assets and ensure that members will be paid their monthly pensions.

The Fund disclosed that it may need over $100 million to comply with this order.

As of Friday, the market value of the Fund's assets was estimated at $305 million. In May, this was at $320 million. The continuous drawdown of funds to pay for members' pensions has been siphoning off money from the Fund's portfolio—money that it could otherwise invest. If $100 million will be set aside for the Fund's defined benefit members, this would mean fewer assets to invest.

On Friday, the board discussed this "emergency" situation and the agency's crisis management policy on how it plans to address this. This involves all possible efforts that would help the Fund reduce its operational cost and many of these streamlining measures involve the passage of several legislation.

Among the possible streamlining measures are the transfer of the administration of Group Health Life Insurance program and the Workers Compensation Commission from the Retirement Fund and the sale of the Fund's Home Loan Program, which will eliminate time and resources dedicated to these functions.

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Applications open for USDA grant program

Applications are being accepted for grants to provide economic assistance to independent producers, farmer, and rancher cooperatives and agricultural producer groups through the Value-Added Producer Grant Program.

This grant may be used for feasibility studies or business plans, working capital for marketing value-added agricultural products and for farm-based renewable energy projects. Eligible applicants include independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, and agricultural producer groups. Value-added products are created when a producer increases the consumer value of an agricultural commodity in the production or processing stage.

Awards may be made for planning activities or for working capital expenses, but not for both. The maximum grant amount for a planning grant is $100,000 and the maximum grant amount for a working capital grant is $300,000. Rural Development is encouraging applications that will support communities in urban or rural areas, with limited access to healthy foods and with a high poverty and hunger rate.

Matching funds. Grant funds may be used to pay up to 50 percent of the total eligible project costs, subject to the limitations established for maximum total grant amount. Applicants must certify the availability and source-verify all matching funds at time of application submission.

The application deadline is Aug. 29, 2011. For further details about eligibility rules and application procedures, see the June 28, 2011, Federal Register (http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-06-28/html/2011-16121.htm).

Visit http://www.rurdev.usda.gov for additional information about the agency's programs or to locate the USDA Rural Development office nearest you. ***(USDA)***

Australia increases support for Pacific fisheries

Australia has boosted its support for Pacific fisheries organizations to help ensure food security and economic opportunity throughout the region.

Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs Richard Marles said Friday that sustainably managing and developing fisheries resources would be a key challenge for Pacific Island countries over the next decade. The fishing industry accounts for around 19,000 jobs across the region.

Australia is providing $14.8 million over four years to two regional fisheries organizations: the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

"These organizations play an important role in the region, given the size of the Pacific's marine resources and increasing global interest in Pacific fisheries. Fisheries resources constitute a critical segment of many Pacific Island economies, contributing around $230 million to the region's GDP," said Marles.

Marles announced the funding following a visit to the Honiara-based FFA, including a tour of the Regional Fisheries Surveillance Centre, with Parliamentary Secretary for Defense Senator David Feeney. The Centre uses satellite tracking of vessels and other data to assist countries in the region detect illegal fishing activities.

"With this announcement, Australia has nearly doubled its annual contribution to the FFA. This support will help update FFA members' national fisheries laws, co-fund a regional observer scheme and increase training for Pacific fisheries officers."

Australia's increased support to the SPC will support fisheries exports and enhance sustainable management by improving scientific advice.

The funding forms part of Australia's $464 million Food Security through Rural Development Initiative to boost agricultural productivity, help rural people increase their incomes and improve long-term food security and nutrition. ***(PR)***

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Maori war canoe cruises London's Thames

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The cultures of New Zealand and the Pacific Islands are for the first time the focus of the City of London festival in Britain. The first event involves a Maori ceremonial war canoe paddling up the River Thames from Tower Pier to Blackfriars in the heart of the capital. Organizers say it's a hundred years to the day, since the first waka went up the river. In July 1911 Maggie Papakura led a concert troupe to the Henley rowing regatta. The New Zealand group Toi Maori will crew the waka along with the London Maori Cultural Group Ngati Ranana. Three weeks of events in London highlight the cultures of the Pacific Islands, with art, drama and music.

4,000 athletes register for New Caledonia games

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—More than 4,000 athletes are listed for the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia as registration of entries by names closed on Thursday. The list is not final, as participating countries can still make changes once they arrive in New Caledonia or during the technical meeting before the competition starts. The number is likely to go down to 3,000 once the Pacific Games begins on the 27th of August. Final preparations are being made to sports stadiums, spectator facilities and accommodation for athletes, Radio Australia reports. Some 22 Pacific nations are to participate in 27 sports competitions at 37 venues between Aug. 27 and Sept. 9.

Light sentence for Vanuatu minister criticized

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The secretary-general of Vanuatu's NGO network, VANGO, says the sentence handed to a government minister for his role in the assault of a newspaper publisher is unfair. The Minister of Public Utilities and Infrastructure, Harry Iauko, has been fined US$150 for aiding and abetting damage to property as well as the assault of Marc Neil-Jones in March at the Daily Post office in Port Vila. VANGO's secretary-general Viviane Obed says the Minister has not been held accountable for his actions which were not fitting for a leader. "They have to be responsible of what actions they take and it doesn't show that the minister himself has displayed a good leadership role, in not getting—how do I say, I don't want to say the word punished—but he should be taking care of his responsibility and whatever weight that is given to him, it's supposed to be fair and just."

France plans sweeping cuts in Tahiti government

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—A leaked copy of French Polynesia's planned reforms shows massive cuts in the public sector are to be implemented by the end of the year. The Nouvelles de Tahiti newspaper has published the document which the assembly is to consider next week after it deferred this week's sitting. To obtain a French loan of 60 million US dollars, a number of public agencies are to be merged or disestablished. The plan provides for asset sales and the closure of Tahiti Tourism's 11 overseas offices, with the destination's international promotion to be privatized. The revamp also entails changing the tax system by reducing the reliance on indirect taxes over three years. The plan also provides for the closure of the public broadcaster, Tahiti Nui TV, and the news agency, Tahitipresse. There is no indication how many jobs will be lost as a result of the restructure.

Costly Cook Islands ceremony criticized

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The Cook Islands government is spending more than US$16,000 on a ceremonial opening of parliament tomorrow. At least 1,200 people have been invited to the ceremonial opening, the first such since 2007. Cook Islands News reports that MPs have mixed feelings about whether the gala opening is a waste of time and money. The deputy leader of the opposition, Wilkie Rasmussen, says it should be scrapped in favor of a modest prayer. Another MP, Norman George, says the ceremony is absolutely essential and a tradition to be honored.

Tonga seasonal workers on the run in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Tonga's Minister of Labour has been warned by New Zealand officials that the high number of Tongan RSE [Recognized Seasonal Employers Scheme] workers on the run in New Zealand must be reduced. Hon Lisiate 'Akolo told Parliament that New Zealand officials said if the matter is ignored, Tonga could be removed from the list of countries in the Recognized Seasonal Employers scheme. Matangi Tonga reports 24 workers are illegally in New Zealand under the program. About 1,000 Tongans have participated in the scheme over the last year. 'Akolo pleaded to members of parliament and the Tongan public to help in efforts to bring back the overstayers by the end of the year. He says Tonga has the highest number of runaways under the scheme, with Tonga at 24 compared to only two each reported from Vanuatu and Samoa and one from Kiribati.

Pacific forum notes RAMSI gains in Solomons

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—A Pacific Islands Forum ministerial standing committee on the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands says it will consult closely with that country's government as the mission is reduced in size. Australia's Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs, Richard Marles, has chaired a meeting of the committee which included participants from New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, RAMSI and the Forum Secretariat. He says RAMSI was never intended to be in Solomon Islands permanently and Australia remains committed to helping the country achieve a stable and prosperous future as the mission is scaled back. The Committee has welcomed progress made by RAMSI and the Solomon Islands Government including training more than 2000 public servants since 2008. It says with the help of RAMSI advisers revenue collection also doubled in the last three years, and the telephone market was opened to competition, cutting call costs by nearly half.2011)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 5, 2000

CPA revenues soared 17 pct. in May

Spurred by the additional flights deployed by Taipei-based Mandarin Airlines and the increased participation of foreign carriers in the Airline Incentive Program, aviation revenues generated by the Commonwealth Ports Authority soared 17 percent in May, reaching close to $200,000 from last year's $830,000. Since the beginning of the Fiscal Year 2000 in October, CPA revenues from its aviation division jumped 16 percent to $7.796 million from the previous year of the same period's $6.731 million. A financial statement prepared by CPA Comptroller Dave S. Demapan attributed the increase in revenues to the implementation of the new schedule of airport charges, which witnessed an increase in landing and departure fees.

CUC presses talks with Dynasty over hook-up

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is wrapping up its discussion with the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino on its impending hook-up with the island power following a deadline imposed by the Coastal Resources Management. CUC Board Chair Jesus T. Guerrero expressed concern that time is running out as the deadline next month nears without concrete agreement with the Dynasty. "We need to do that right away," he told CUC officials during a board meeting Monday. The hotel and casino, the biggest on Tinian, has yet to hook up with CUC's 10-megawatt power plant on the island due to failure to agree on the electricity rate.

July 5, 2001

Bill seeks to expand access to 911

The move to grant emergency access to subscribers of landline telephones who have been temporarily disconnected for nonpayment is shaping up at the House of Representatives, soon after a bill providing for such access hurdled first reading on Tuesday. The House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, to which House Bill 12-306 was referred to, said that the bill will provide a fair measure of consumer protection without putting undue burden on the affected providers. Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho, committee chairman, said his committee believes that local landline telephone providers should provide access to 911 services for 30 days to people whose services have been temporarily disconnected due to the nonpayment of their telephone bills.

Fitial: Freedom more fragile than ever

House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial yesterday called on the people of the Commonwealth to be more vigilant in guarding their rights as US citizens as he warned that "our freedom and liberty are more fragile than ever before." In a Fourth of July speech during Liberation Day festivities at the American Memorial Park, Fitial also extolled the many brave men and women who lost their lives during the last world war defending the "peace and democracy we now enjoy." The speaker, a staunch supporter of local self-government and free market policies, adamantly opposes moves in US Congress to federalize immigration, labor and wage laws in the CNMI. He has been in the forefront of lobbying efforts against a federal takeover of local immigration and labor control.

July 5, 2002

CPA: Tinian wharfage rate correct

The Commonwealth Ports Authority cited declining revenue collection as the primary reason behind the implementation of new wharfage rates. In a letter to Tinian Chamber of Commerce President Philip Long, CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas stressed that the new wharfage rates are implemented based on carefully computed rates and obligations faced by the seaport division. Salas explained that although port officials empathize with the businesses for being subjected to many adverse economic factors, the CPA also has financial obligations that have to be strictly met on a timely basis.

Tanapag residents oppose PCB plan

Tanapag residents, through Tanapag Action Group chair and now Director of Personnel Management Juan Tenorio, are opposing plans to use treated soil from PCBs to cover the Puerto Rico dump. Tenorio assailed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for saying that the soil treated from PCB contamination would be suitable for cover to close the dump. The EPA welcomed TAG's concern, but assured that the treated soil is not at harmful levels. "Those soil are dirty," Tenorio said.

Govt appeals Govendo's orders in Marpi power poles project; opposes mediator

The CNMI government has appealed to the CNMI Supreme Court the orders issued by Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo to momentarily stop the government from completing the power poles project in Marpi.

This developed as the Office of the Attorney General, as counsel for the CNMI government and several other government agencies and officials named as defendants in a lawsuit filed by Friends of Marpi, expressed opposition to the Friends of Marpi's motion to appoint a mediator to resolve the case.

A status conference in the case will be conducted today, Tuesday, at 9am before Govendo.

Assistant attorney general Gilbert Birnbrich, counsel for the defendants, has notified the Superior Court of their intention to pursue an appeal to the CNMI Supreme Court of Govendo's orders issued on May 11, 12, and 16, 2011.

The May 11 and 12 orders granted the preliminary injunction that suspended the power poles project for 90 days. The May 16 order was a written opinion in which Govendo described as "ludicrous logic" the government's argument that a single, inconspicuous section mentioning the power poles is enough public notice about the matter.

Saipan Tribune learned that during a hearing on June 6, the Friends of Marpi asked Govendo to appoint a mediator who would assist the parties in working out a resolution to the power poles issue.

The government objected this, saying they do not believe that forced mediation is appropriate at this time.

In the defendants' opposition to the motion, Birnbrich said the Friends of Marpi and co-plaintiffs mischaracterize the judge's preliminary injunction order. Birnbrich said Govendo did not order the parties to engage in settlement negotiations with persons with binding settlement authority.

The judge, Birnbrich said, asked the parties to get together and discuss how the matter could be resolved.

"That is what defendants have done. Moreover, defendants believe that the discussion was useful," he said.

Citing that the case is only a month and a half into its existence, the government counsel said that mediation at this stage is premature.

Birnbrich said not all parties—Department of Public Lands and DPL Secretary Oscar Babauta—have appeared in this lawsuit.

"It is extraordinarily early to force the parties to engage in mediation with persons with binding authority where the issues have not been joined, 10 causes of action are outstanding, and no evidence has been conducted," he pointed out.

Birnbrich said they believe that plaintiffs perhaps feel that mediation is necessary now because the injunction is only for 90 days.

He said Govendo made it clear during the hearing on the motion for preliminary injunction that it granted the 90-day injunction because it wanted the opinions of the general public to be heard on the matter of powering Marpi.

Govendo also wanted to provide the U.S. Department of the Interior an opportunity to "conduct and complete a section 106 review."

"The contemplated process is taking its course. There is no need to rush to mediation," Birnbrich said.

Friends of Marpi's Tina Sablan said yesterday in an email that numerous documents that have been requested from the government since even before litigation began have yet to be turned over to their group.

The power poles are part of a $2.9-million project to build a Marpi public cemetery. The poles are supposed to supply power to the public cemetery and the CNMI Veterans Cemetery. Only two more power poles need to be installed to complete the project. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-11-044
LOAN SERVICING & RELATED COLLECTION ACTION

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified collection agencies to provide loan servicing and related collection actions in Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package and Scope-of-Work may be obtained, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of $ 100.00 (non-refundable) for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **July 19, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-11-044, Loan Servicing & Related Collection Action", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 9 ,2011 at 10:00 AM, (ChST)**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offerors will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) local time on **July 22, 2011** to Mr. Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email Charles_Warren@cucgov.net with a copy to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply via email mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all offers and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-IFB-11-043
CHALAN KANOA SEWERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT NO. 1

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the rehabilitation and upgrade of Sewer Lift Stations and installation of Force-Main in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general of the replacement of asbestos cement pipe (ACP) sewerline in two areas of Chalan Kanoa. The first project is to replace and re-locate a section of existing 6 inch ACP sewerline which has collapsed along Texas Road in the vicinity of the Chalan Kanoa cemetery, with 584 linear feet (LF) of 8-inch PVC sewerline and 3 new concrete manholes. The second project is the replacement of 160 LF of existing 6 inch ACP sewerline, between two existing manholes, located on Brigida Street in front of the on-going Sandy Beach Homes project. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **90 calendar** days from date of award of contract.

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of $ 100.00 (non-refundable) for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site-Visit, will be held on **June 30, 2011 at 9:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-11-043, Chalan Kanoa Sewerline Replacement Project No. 1"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 14, 2011**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 30 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code. Please refer to other bidding requirements described in Document 00200 - Instructions to Bidders.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 05, 2011** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Mr. Brian Bearden, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email brian_bearden@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-11-040
DEBT COLLECTION LEGAL SERVICES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from from debt collection attorneys to assist in the collection of delinquent utility billings for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The CUC intends to place selected accounts with one or more attorney. Submitted proposals must indicate how the CUC will be kept informed of the progress of each account placed with the attorney,as well as provide a summary and detail report of all accounts placed. In addition, proposals must provide for the total listing of the gross amount of all collections with a separate billing for attorney services rendered.

The RFP Package and the Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **June 16, 2011 at 11:00 AM (ChST),** at CUC Main Conference Room No. 10, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-11-040, Debt Collection Legal Services"* to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than July 08, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 20, 2011 to Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer via email address charles_warren@cucgov.net; Mr. Manuel Sablan Purchasing Officer msablan@cucgov.net; and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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How to keep kids safe during the summer

By JULEYKA LANTIGUA-WILLIAMS
THE PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

Keeping our children safe is the top priority for all parents, and it takes on more urgency during summertime. Fortunately, there are many ways to keep your children safe this season, no matter where your family chooses to have fun.

In the water: Pools, hot tubs, water parks, lakes, rivers and oceans present a fatal risk. Drowning is the second leading cause of injury-related death among children 14 years old and younger, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It ranks behind only car accidents.

So make sure children wear flotation devices and stay in appropriate areas of the pool or water parks. And make sure a lifeguard or a responsible adult is watching at all times. Kids have been known to drown in even shallow plastic backyard wading pools, according to a recent study in the journal Pediatrics.

Recreational water areas are also breeding ground for germs, so caution children not to swallow pool water and to take a shower before and after swimming.

On the water: Recreational boating is enjoyed by more than 70 million Americans each year, making it one of the most popular summer activities. However, it presents its own set of unique safety challenges for parents. To stay safe, everyone should wear properly fitted life jackets. Parents should abstain from consuming alcohol, as it may impair their ability to supervise children and react in an emergency.

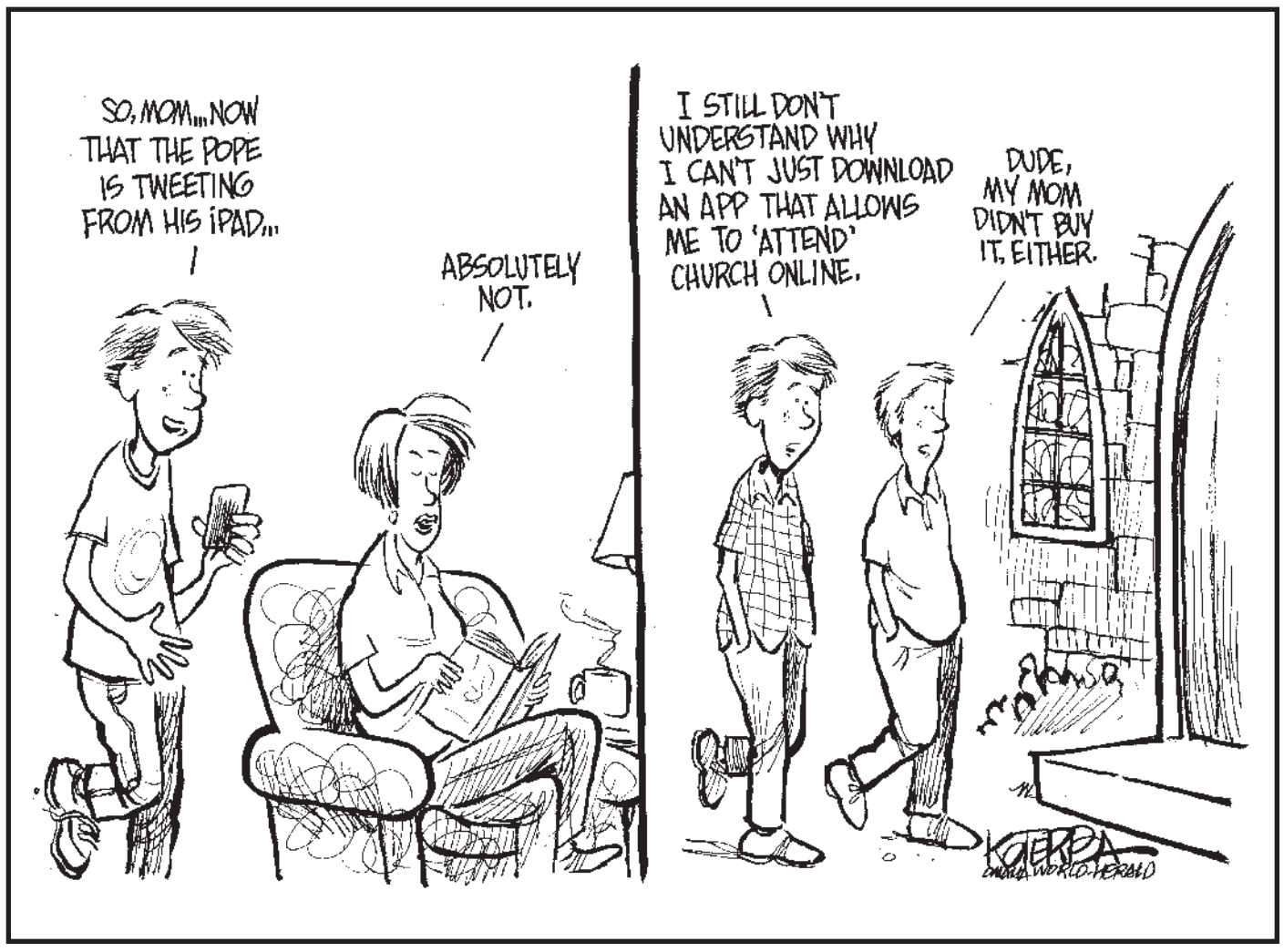
On the field: Summer sports like Little League, mountain biking, and inline skating can enrich a child's summer experience in many ways, but may also create opportunities for injury. Concussions and broken bones can result from falls and accidents on playgrounds and other hard-surface areas. Every child should wear protective gear, such as wrist guards, knee and elbow pads and especially a helmet.

In the sun: "There's no other way to say it: Tanned skin is damaged skin. Any change in the color of your child's skin after time outside—whether sunburn or suntan—indicates damage from UV rays," says the CDC. Kids' skin needs protection from ultraviolet rays any time they're outdoors. So have your kids use sunscreen, cover up with clothing, put on sunglasses and avoid the midday sun.

While camping: Be sure your family's vaccinations are up to date. And warn your child never to hike or swim alone. Use insect repellent. Check for ticks, and remove them promptly. Have your child wear long sleeves whenever possible. Light-colored clothing also helps to spot ticks easily.

Don't let all these risks get in the way of having a fun summer. Knowing the risks and preparing for them will keep your kid safe—and your mind free.

Juleyka Lantigua-Williams writes for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive *magazine*.


SO, MOM... NOW THAT THE POPE IS TWEETING FROM HIS iPAD...
ABSOLUTELY NOT.
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY I CAN'T JUST DOWNLOAD AN APP THAT ALLOWS ME TO 'ATTEND' CHURCH ONLINE.
DUDE, MY MOM DIDN'T BUY IT, EITHER.
KAERA

The 235th year anniversary

When [we the people]...assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and Nature's God entitle [us]...[we] declare...these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness....

—The Declaration of Independence, July 4 1776.

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

From the prolific pen of Thomas Jefferson would flow sentiments reflected in our abridged portion of the 1776 Declaration of Independence, now enshrined as one of the iconic political documents mostly revered (save its archaic "all men" to Erica Jong) and more than reviled across the planet.

The Continental Congress of 1782 adopted the sea eagle, a venerated Native American bird of religious significance, as a national symbol appearing in most official seals, calling the white-haired one "bald" as was customary at the time. That would be tantamount to calling Ray Mafnas and Stanley McGinnis Torres "bald," which I am not willing to do since I am only slightly behind them in the bleaching of the mane department. However, we know Ray to be a faithful warrior, and Stanley a defiant one, which only shows that both the consent of the governed and the dissent of the concerned are protected rights in this 235-year political experiment in the land of the bald!

The image of the powerful bird of prey has in its talons 13 arrows to symbolize might, and 13 olives and leaves to designate grace and peace among the original 13 colonies that comprised the original Union. The paradox of contradictional dialectic, e.g., between might and right, separate and equal, Armageddon and creation, inter alia, has followed American history from the beginning, issuing in the catastrophic devastation of the Civil War of the mid-1860s and its unresolved issues catching up in the equally intense struggle for Civil Rights in the mid-1960s. In my time, the Eagles have landed both in the tarmac of Grenada and the rough landscape of the Moon!

The "Laws of Nature" and Nature's "God" have also proven to be unwieldy images in the American psyche. Treating Nature not as a subject but as object of speculative and exploitative commercial value has led to the creation of what is now emerging to be the globalization of phantom wealth in our financial markets; more insidiously, in our increasing knowledge of the processes of nature, we abuse its regenerative secrets as a means for commercial gain over population that could use the healing but can not afford the cost, riding its catalytic powers to rearrange atoms and enhance awareness to be in the service of our hedonistic pleasures. Negligent in preserving air and water, and the ecological diversity of its flora and fauna, we have defied the laws of nature with impunity that the Mother Earth of our birth has become the Darth Vadar of our death and destruction. We could declare that "all creatures are to be treated equal" since we already recognize the need to protect endangered species.

Nature's "God" remains contentious, primarily between those who posit an intelligent designer outside of the processes of nature and those who would very well leave the Unknown unknown alone, acknowledge and celebrate its awe and mystery, and go on with the processes within the limits and possibilities of the human domain. The assumed "objectivity" of Science, happily, does not resolve anything since within its own methodology was discovered that the act of observation itself already alters the nature of the observed. It's the subject, not the object, that counts!

"God," of course, is a recent European coinage from the German "gott" and the Anglo-Saxon "good," which, given its usage emerging from the Latin tradition, harks back to Mt. Olympus' Zeus, Koine Greek's theos, Rome's Deus, derived further from the Babylonian ilu, the Canaanite el, and the Arabic illah. I grew up with YHWH, "that which is, IS."

Et Pluribus Unum (Out of the many, one) affirmed the oneness of reality, enshrined as the nation's de facto motto until Congress anglicized it with, "In God We Trust." Were we to second-guess Thomas Jefferson and the guys, I do not think they meant by the One the super grand Papa out of Krypton. The term "Creator" denotes like that understood in our time, process and development. "Evolution" works but that's too subversive to many. In Reality we trust! The task of Independence would then be more than separating from England as it is liberating the native and local talent to create new life, to go "where no one had gone before." Of course, intention and practice are two distinct actualities!

We are still in the tail end of Queen Maria Anna's reign since CNMI Liberation Day focuses on the crowning of its Queen and her court, commercialized with the sole ascendant criteria of tickets sold, but if the many who write on this page have their way, creating the means, methods, and pathways toward self-sufficiency, self-reliance, and self-confidence could very well be the focus of the islands' liberation and the nation's commemoration of its independence.

In a conscious time of glorious diversity, in the planet, in our nation, in our islands and in our minds, a declaration of interdependence would be appropriate. A focus on the Many, as much as it is on the One, is in order.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Lest we forget our legacy of compromise

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. *Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer, *P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at trubin@phillynews.com.*

Since moving to Philadelphia, I've often visited the room in Independence Hall where the Founding Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

As July Fourth approaches, I feel a special need to return there to pay tribute to the qualities that enabled those men to establish a democratic system. I refer to their ability to compromise and show tolerance for the opinions of others.

These are qualities that are being challenged within our own political arena. And, as we've seen over the last decade, their absence makes it hard for democracy to take root elsewhere.

In a year of popular Arab revolts and almost two decades since communism's fall in the Soviet Union, we can see how an inability to compromise blocks democratic prospects. Many promising democratic starts have faltered or failed in societies in which compromise is seen as too risky, or flat-out wrong.

I still recall trailing Russian leader Boris Yeltsin around Independence Hall in September 1989; he was quizzing a park ranger about how the Founders devised a system in which the states shared power. This was a bit more than two years before the breakup of the Soviet Union, whose demise created great hopes for democracy in Russia.

But in 1990—while on a journalistic exchange in Moscow—I saw just how psychologically difficult that shift would be. Russians were used to a system in which politics was a zero-sum game (meaning the winner takes all). In the Soviet era, those who had power never willingly relinquished it. The rest submitted (while privately trying to cheat a system that most despised); dissent meant loss of livelihood, or prison.

Soon after the first elections for local councils in Moscow, I attended a meeting where a Western psychologist tried to instruct council members on the art of compromise, explaining the technical niceties of political coalitions and issue-based politics. He pointed out that defeat on one issue didn't mean that one couldn't succeed the next time.

But the new officeholders soon started screaming at one another. One councilman later sheepishly described to me his fear of winding up on the losing side of an issue. His gut instinct warned him that, in Russian politics, losers got no second chance.

This public mind-set—still prevalent in Russia—helped facilitate the country's return to a softer variant of autocracy. (It wasn't the only factor, but it was a critical one.) Those who try to organize political opposition to the Kremlin may still get sent to the gulag—as happened to billionaire businessman Mikhail Khodorkovsky. Despite the Kremlin's tight hold on power, its leaders still cannot tolerate dissent.

Such fear of dissent—along with an inability to compromise—has undercut Arab experiments with democracy. The top-down imposition of democracy in Iraq carried seeds of its own failure, but Iraq's innate characteristics have made it hard to rescue this experiment from postwar chaos.

Iraqi Shiite and Sunni leaders were reared under a dictatorship in which dissent meant death. Although the dictator is dead, these leaders now represent sectarian parties that view electoral politics as an extension of their recent civil war. Compromise is so threatening that, months after elections, key ministers haven't been appointed and the government is practically paralyzed.

Of course, outside factors exacerbate this paralysis, such as pressure from Shiite Iran via its Iraqi Shiite proxies, and the pending withdrawal of remaining U.S. troops. But, at bottom, Iraqis still don't trust the give-and-take of a democratic system. They still see politics as a zero-sum game.

The same problem threatens to undermine the Arab Spring, in countries that have overthrown autocrats as well as those where the opposition is still struggling.

Egypt, which has historic experience with parliamentary democracy, would seem to have a good chance at renewal. But the most organized political force in Egyptian politics is the Muslim Brotherhood, which appears poised to use democracy to promote religious discrimination against women, Christians, and secular-oriented Muslims. Religious law does not brook any compromise. Nor is the Egyptian army, the power behind the scenes, comfortable with political dissent.

In Libya, and Syria, too, the fall of dictators will expose societies rife with tribal and religious differences and without experience in political compromise. These are societies in which powerful men and/or Scripture have dominated the life of the people. These societies lack experience with rule of law or political institutions that are independent of the regime.

And so, on this July Fourth, we should be especially grateful for the bequest of our nation's founders. Other nations seeking democracy must work their way through daunting societal and cultural thickets. We, however, have a legacy of tolerance and compromise that was worked out in Independence Hall. We must not squander it.

Americans can't afford to let our politics become a zero-sum game.

Born on the Fourth of July

By JULIA SHAW
THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

America's birthday is also that of Calvin Coolidge, the only president born on the Fourth of July. This is altogether fitting, as the man remembered as "Silent Cal" is one of the most eloquent voices for the great and enduring principles expressed in our Declaration of Independence.

There are many half-truths about Coolidge. Despite his nickname, Coolidge was far from silent in his biweekly press conferences and—years before FDR's fireside chats—regular radio addresses to the American people. Far from a quiet simpleton, he was an experienced public servant.

Coolidge served in Massachusetts as a city councilman, city solicitor, mayor, state senator, lieutenant governor, and governor before joining presidential candidate Warren G. Harding's quest to return the country to "normalcy." He took the presidential oath early on the morning of Aug. 3, 1923, following Harding's death. Under Coolidge, normalcy would mean a return to the principles of America's Founding.

Coolidge saw the Founders and their principles as simultaneously conservative and revolutionary. Conservative insofar as many of their ideas were expressed earlier in Western political philosophy and the religious writings of the American colonists. Revolutionary insofar as they established a nation based on principles of individual rights, liberty, equality and self-government.

Coolidge understood that the Founders did not invent the principles contained within the Declaration of Independence, for "great ideas do not burst upon the world unannounced." But the Founders were the first to make these principles—equality, liberty, and consent of the governed—the foundation of a nation.

The Declaration of Independence, moreover, did not emerge from a revolution of "the oppressed and downtrodden," Coolidge wrote, "It brought no scum to the surface." Nor was this a document to benefit the landed elite. Rather, the Declaration of Independence was a document for a self-governing people.

And the equality it guaranteed was truly for all. Coolidge's strict adherence to the principles of the American Founding, in fact, led him to end segregation in federal employment, a practice instituted by "progressive" icon Woodrow Wilson.

He rejected the arguments of his contemporaries who "asserted that the world has made a great deal of progress since 1776, that we have had new thoughts and new experiences which have given us a great advance over the people of that day, and that we may therefore very well discard (the Founders') conclusions for something more modern."

Coolidge responded that there could be no progress by moving away from the Declaration of Independence. There was finality to the document: "If all men are created equal, that is final. If they are endowed with inalienable rights, that is final. If governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, that is final. No advance, no progress can be made beyond these propositions."

As we celebrate the Fourth of July, let us not only remember the principles of America. Let us also commemorate the birthday of the man who so eloquently articulated and defended America's enduring principles—and its noble heritage of freedom.

Julia Shaw is the research associate and program manager for the B. Kenneth Simon Center for Principles and Politics at The Heritage Foundation.

Letters to the Editor

Saipan on the Big Mac Index

Back in 1986 *The Economist* magazine published an informal way to measure the purchasing power of currencies to test the values of different countries' money. It was called the "Big Mac Index" after the McDonald's burger. The Big Mac was chosen as the product to compare because cost are globally similar. I thought that it might be interesting to compare a U.S. dollar spent on Saipan to a "U.S. dollar" spent in Hong Kong (fixed exchange rate: HK$7.80 to US$1). Today, I bought a Big Mac in Hong Kong on sale for US$2.60. On Saipan the same burger is now selling for about US$4.50. The index ratio is $4.50/$2.60 = 1.73. The ratio indicates that a Big Mac on Saipan is 73 percent more expensive than the Hong Kong price. When you consider that Hong Kong is listed as one of the five most expensive cities in the world, that makes Saipan a very expensive place to live.

Strawberries imported from California via air to Hong Kong are now being sold for US$3.60/lb. On Saipan the same berries imported from the same supplier are selling for about US$9/lb. That is a difference of US$5.40/lb or about 150 percent higher on Saipan. Logistics, waste, our small market, and profit margins are all parts of the selling price. It says that our retailers need to consider "thinking out of the box" to be more productive and find ways to lower cost. Lower income people can no longer afford to live in the CNMI. Especially, when costs of electric power, water, services and gasoline are also considered.

For example, consider gasoline: On Saipan the selling price for a gallon a gasoline is about US$4.75 (less $0.15 for CNMI tax) for a cost of US$4.60/gal after tax. In the state of Michigan, at a Costco Station, gasoline costs US$3.37/gal (less US$0.40 in total taxes) for a value of US$2.97/gal after tax, or a difference of US$1.70/gal. The Big Mac index is $4.60/$2.97 = 1.55. That means our gasoline is 55 percent higher than Michigan (MI gas tax ranks 22 of the 50 states). I would like to know why it cost US$1.70/gal to bulk ship and store a gallon of gasoline to Saipan. Why is it that there are no discount gasoline stations on Saipan? Why are prices always the same at all the stations? If we had stations that were more productive and competitive there seems to be enough margin to sell discounted gas for at least 30 percent cheaper. What do you and your readers think? Do I have a point? The people of Saipan need help to stop losing our standard of living caused by high prices!

Frank Stewart
Capital Hill, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲84° ▼75°	▲83° ▼76°	▲85° ▼77°

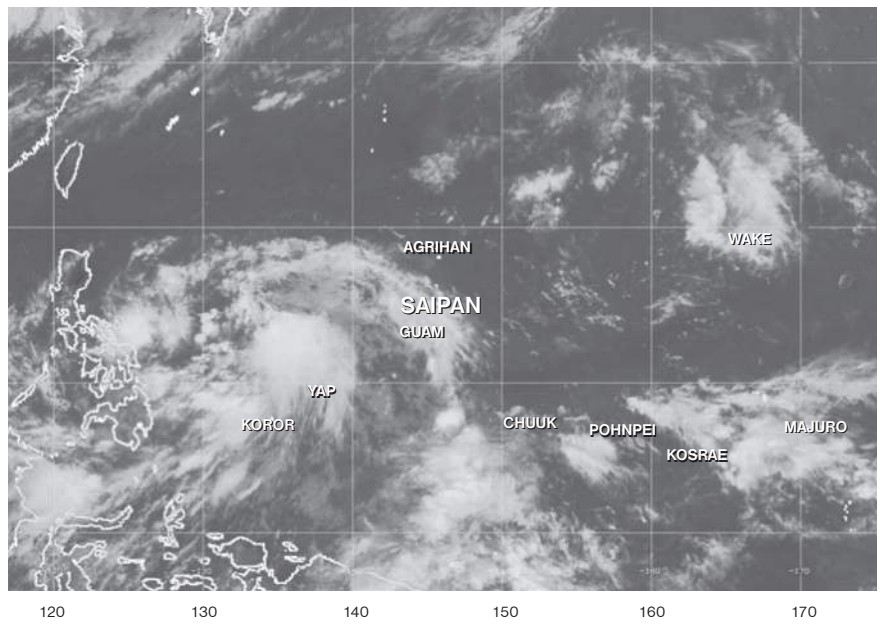
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲82	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Yap	Rain	▲84	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼76
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲85	▼75
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲59	▼54
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼69
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲90	▼82
Honolulu	Sunny	▲86	▼75
London	Showers	▲66	▼57
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼67
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲53	▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼78
New York	Sunny	▲88	▼69
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲83	▼74
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼56
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲77	▼69
Rome	Sunny	▲85	▼67
Salem	Sunny	▲87	▼59
San Francisco	Sunny	▲75	▼60
Seoul	Cloudy	▲83	▼68
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲83	▼74
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲93	▼75

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JULY 4, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends eastward from 10N130E to just north of Yap then turns southeastward to end near 3N151E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located near Yap and Palau within an area bounded by a line from 1N130E to 10N141E to 16N140E to 17N133E to 15N130E back to 1N130E, and southwest of Chuuk between the equator and 8N from 143E to 151E. Convergent southeast flow northeast of the monsoon trough is also generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the Marianas within 100 miles of a line from 16N143E to 13N146E.Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southwest of Pohnpei within 100 miles of 5N156E, from east of Pohnpei and Kosrae to Kwajalein and Majuro within an area bounded by a line from 9N158E to 3N166E to 4N173E to 10N173E back to 9N158E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:43 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
10:34 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
5:38 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.2 Feet
12:25 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:51 AM	6:52 PM
Wednesday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Thursday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Saturday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Tuesday	9:16 AM	9:54 PM
Wednesday	10:13 AM	10:37 PM
Thursday	11:09 AM	11:21 PM
Friday	12:06 AM	-
Saturday	-	12:06 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Chamber to host Survey of Wages, Salaries, and Benefits forum

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will host an hour-long presentation for SCC's 2011 Survey of Wages, Salaries, and Benefits for purposes of establishing prevailing wage rate determinations in the CNMI, on July 6, 2011 at 1:30pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, Saipan.

The free presentation will immediately follow the monthly SCC general membership luncheon meeting at the Saipan Grand Hotel which begins at 11:30am. The SCC luncheon price is a paid event, while the 1:30pm event is free of charge.

SCC will introduce Andy Andrus, the executive director of the Guam Employers Council to conduct the presentation. The Guam Employers Council has been contracted by SCC to conduct a comprehensive survey of wages, salaries and benefits in the CNMI. The afternoon presentation will include a power point presentation to address aspects of the survey.

The Guam Employers Council and its current executive director have been conducting such studies in the Western Pacific for approximately 25 years.

The purpose of the survey is to measure current base rates of pay and benefits currently in effect among private and public employers in the CNMI for a very broad range of jobs. The Standard Occupation Classification published by the U.S. Department of Labor is being used as the standard for the job codes, titles, and descriptions, as recommended by the U.S. Department of Labor.

All organizations and companies that fully participate in the survey will receive copies of the results. There is no charge for participation and the data gathered is 100 percent confidential as per contractual agreement. The survey will be copyrighted.

A detailed, graphic explanation of the instructions, data entry forms and procedures for submitting data will be provided in the presentation.

In the effort to make the results appropriate for prevailing wage determinations, and more specifically for temporary immigrant labor applications with USCIS, standards prescribed by the US DOL for such procedures are being addressed. Accordingly, the rates of pay and benefits data for persons holding H-1, H-1B, and H-2B visas are to be excluded.

The SCC will continue to receive those interested parties, and their contact information for the survey itself, at its offices in Garapan. Information can be received by telephone at 233-7150/7152 and at coordinator@saipanchamber.com. ***(SSC)***

SHRM *presents* 'CNMI *Prevailing* Wage Survey'

The Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter will host a presentation open to all employers about a CNMI Prevailing Wage Survey that will be conducted in the coming weeks.

SHRM has partnered with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to provide a presentation that will explain the purpose, details, and benefits of the survey.

The presentation will be held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe tomorrow, July 6, from 1:30pm to 3pm and the guest speaker will be Andy Andrus, executive director of the Guam Employer's Council.

The SCC has contracted the Guam Employer's Council to conduct a comprehensive survey of wages, salaries, and benefits in the CNMI. The Guam Employers' Council and its executive director have been conducting such studies in the Western Pacific for approximately 25 years.

If you own, manage or work for a business that employs nonresident workers, you will not want to miss this presentation. Andrus will address many key issues about the survey during his presentation, including:

1. What is a prevailing wage?
2. Why is a Prevailing Wage Study so important for the CNMI?
3. How can a business participate in the survey and also get the results?
4. What will be the methodology used for the survey?
5. Who has to approve the survey and its results?
6. How will employers and employees benefit from the results of the survey?

A question and answer period will take place after the presentation. The presentation is free and seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Polly DLG Masga at 237-5122 or e-mail her at pollydlg@gmail.com. ***(SHRM)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMC-CREES offers summer internships for high school juniors and seniors

The Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service is encouraging incoming high school juniors and seniors for school year 2011/12 to apply for its summer internship program.

The internship will take place from July 18 to Aug. 19, 2011. As part of the internship program, students will explore and learn about the fields of agriculture and family sciences. NMC-CREES has different divisions including Aquaculture, Entomology, Plant Pathology, and Food Science.

The deadline to apply for the internship is no later than 4:30 pm on Monday, June 27, 2011. Application forms and additional information are available at the NMC-CREES offices in Building F at the NMC Saipan campus, and at the administrative offices of the NMC Rota and Tinian Instructional Sites. For more information, contact Mark Flores at 234-5498 ext. 1706.

The internship program is made possible by funds from the ADAP Professional Development Project and Resident Instruction/CARIPAC Project. ***(NMC)***

Hopwood grade 6 and 7 open registration set

The open registration for seventh and eighth grade levels of Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Jr. High School is set from July 11 to July 29. Parents and guardians of enrolling students should provide the school with all the necessary documents to avoid any problem in the processing of their child's enrollment. Any new or transfer students must also provide proper documents to prevent any delay in their processing. For more information, contact the school at 237-3422/3395/3421. ***(PR)***

Enrollment info for Kagman High

To all returning Kagman High School students, parents and guardians: All students must register anew for school year 2011-2012, even if you went to KHS this last school year. The school is updating its records and everyone must re-register or they will not receive a class schedule for the school year. Register before Aug. 19 for optimum scheduling. Registration forms can be picked up from the registrar or in the main office. For more information, call 237 3840 or 237 3886. ***(PR)***

Gate change at Naval Hospital Guam

SANTA RITA, Guam-Visitors to Naval Hospital Guam are advised that an interim gate will be used to access Naval Hospital grounds beginning at 5am on July 5. The current gate will be closed to ease the traffic flow connected to the ongoing construction of the new hospital. The new gate is 320 feet east of the original gate on Route 7 and will remain the main access gate to NHG until the new hospital construction completion in 2014.

The Pass and ID office to obtain passes to access Naval Hospital grounds will remain in building 16 at the original Naval Hospital gate entrance.

Motorists are asked to observe all applicable signs and directions. Naval Base Guam and Naval Hospital appreciates the patient and visitor patience during the gate transition and ongoing construction activities.

The existing Naval Hospital will remain open during construction, but will be demolished once the new hospital is operational in the fall of 2014. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo presents Robert Lizama with a Certificate of Nomination to the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Lizama appointed to US Air Force Academy

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo recently announced that Robert P. Lizama has been appointed to the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Lizama was nominated by Congresswoman Bordallo, and competed with nominees nationwide for admission to the Air Force Academy. The USAFA admission board selected Trevor based on his academic achievements, athletic abilities, extracurricular activities and community involvement.

Lizama is the son of Gregorio and Diana Lizama of Yigo. He graduated from Guam High School in 2010 with a 4.04 grade point average, and was a member of the Guam High soccer team.

Lizama is a recipient of the United States Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence Award, President's Award for Educational Excellence, AP Scholar with Distinction Award, and was a participant in the University of Guam Chemistry Titration Competition. He is currently enrolled at the University of Guam.

"I congratulate Robert and his parents on his appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy," said Congresswoman Bordallo. "Robert's appointment is a testament his hard work and dedication. I am confident that he will succeed as a Cadet at the Air Force Academy and that will serve our nation with honor when he graduates with the Class of 2015." ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Belated happy birthday to Arlyn Ocaya. We hope you enjoyed your special day. May God continue to bless you!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to Fernando Sta Ana. We wish you more birthdays to come and good health. You're the best father. We're proud of you. We love you! God bless! Greetings from April, Francis, Ann Fherlyn, Anna Lyn, John, and your wife Jocelyn.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2011 Liberation Day Parade

Text and Photos by HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The Department of Public Safety's Color Guard and multiple JROTC units in the CNMI are among the first groups to march in yesterday's sunny—and later rainy—Fourth of July Parade on Beach Road.

A goalie from the NMI Football Association shows what he's got.

From left, Northern Islands Mayor Tobias Aldan, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, first lady Josie Fitial, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, and his wife Cecilia applaud on the main stage as they watch parade participants.

Rain or shine, residents are ready with their umbrellas.

Members of the Cholll A. Beluu Cultural Dance Group wow the crowd with their traditional Palauan chants and dance performance.

Members of the Korean community on Saipan make their presence felt with their musical instruments, costumes, and miniature flags.

KKMP co-owner Gary Sword plays a guitar as he joins other CNMI musicians on the parade float of KKMP, which bagged the first prize in the float competition.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial emerges from his official car and on to the main stage for the best view of the parade.

Saipan Awa-odori members never fail to amaze the crowd with their swags and other dance moves.

Paul Celis, 14, is all smiles in an all-American hat.

Japanese tourists join supporters and friends of radio station KKMP in a freestyle dancing in yesterday's Fourth of July Parade that started in front of the National Office Supply to the Kristo Rai Church on Beach Road.
(TEXT AND PHOTOS BY HAIDEE V. EUGENIO)

A visiting beauty queen from Japan crowned 2011 Miss Saipan waves to the crowd.

Palau CNMI Community Association members wave to the crowd as they reach the main stage.

Members of the Japanese Society of the CNMI command one of the liveliest performances at the parade.

Saipan Music and Dance's young members perform traditional dances from different parts of Asia and the Pacific.

2011 Liberation Day queens brave the rain as they are escorted down from their float and on to the main stage to join other dignitaries.

Business

In Strauss-Kahn case, DA weighs limited options

NEW YORK (AP)—At first, prosecutors said their sexual assault case against Dominique Strauss-Kahn was growing more formidable by the day. Six weeks later, they said his accuser's history of lying raised major red flags, but they weren't dropping the case, at least for now.

With the former International Monetary Fund leader freed from house arrest because the case has weakened, prosecutors aren't saying what their next move may be.

Some legal experts say prosecutors will all but have to abandon the case because of the damage to the accuser's overall credibility, even if they believe Strauss-Kahn attacked the woman, a housekeeper at a New York City hotel where he was staying. Still, at least one former high-level prosecutor thinks the case isn't doomed.

For now, Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. is saying only that prosecutors will keep investigating "until we have uncovered all relevant facts."

"Sometimes the road to get to the truth has twists and turns in it, which are not always apparent at the outset," he said in a statement Sunday. "What is important is not a win or a loss, but rather to ensure the criminal justice system balances the rights of all those who come before it."

Prosecutors have a number of options, including going ahead with the current charges or reducing them.

They could try to negotiate a plea deal, though it's unclear whether Strauss-Kahn would entertain one. He has asserted his innocence, and the doubts raised about the woman's trustworthiness would likely improve his chances at a trial. While prosecutors haven't questioned her account of the alleged attack itself, they say she's been untruthful about a number of other things, including what she did right afterward. That could make potential jurors reluctant to take her word over Strauss-Kahn's.

Or prosecutors could ask a judge to dismiss the case, as Strauss-Kahn's lawyers have called on them to do.

"As a former sex crimes prosecutor myself, I wouldn't want to try this case," said Allison Leotta, until recently an assistant U.S. attorney in Washington, D.C., where the federal lawyers act as local prosecutors.

"People are going to have a very hard time believing her," said Leotta, also the author of "Law of Attraction," a recently published novel.

The hotel maid told authorities that Strauss-Kahn, often called DSK, forced her to perform oral sex and tried to pull down her pantyhose after she arrived to clean his suite May 14. Her lawyer, Kenneth Thompson, said Friday that Strauss-Kahn bruised the woman's genitals, ripped her hose and damaged a ligament in one of her shoulders in a violent attack.

His semen was found on her uniform, people familiar with the investigation have said.

Strauss-Kahn's lawyers say anything that happened between the two wasn't forced.

The Associated Press generally doesn't name accusers of sex crimes unless they agree to be identified.

Authorities initially called the 32-year-old woman credible. But prosecutors now say she lied to them about her background—including by fabricating an account of having been gang-raped in her native Guinea—and didn't tell a grand jury she had gone on cleaning rooms before alerting her supervisor about the attack. She also has fudged on tax forms to keep subsidized housing, they said.

Exxon claims spill damage limited, govt doubtful

LAUREL, Mont. (AP)—Authorities struggled Sunday to gauge the environmental and crop damage from tens of thousands of gallons of oil that spilled into the legendary Yellowstone River, as Montana's governor criticized Exxon Mobil for downplaying the possible scope of the disaster.

A break in a company pipeline near Laurel fouled miles of riverbank and forced municipalities and irrigation districts to close intakes across eastern Montana.

Exxon Mobil brought in more cleanup workers to mop up crude at three sites along the flooded river that were coated with thick globs of crude. Yet there was no clear word on how far the damage extended along a scenic river famous for its fishing and vital to farmers who depend on its water for their crops.

The uncertainty frustrated riverfront property owners such as Linda Corbin, who worried that severe damage would be revealed as the flooding Yellowstone recedes in coming weeks. The stench of spilled crude was obvious in Corbin's backyard—a reminder of the potential problems lurking beneath the surface of the nearby river.

"The smell has been enough to gag a maggot," said Corbin, 64. "I just hope it doesn't come too far because I'm on a well, and I won't appreciate having to shower in Exxon oil."

Environmental Protection Agency spokeswoman Sonya Pennock said its staff had spotted oil at least 40 miles downstream. There were other reports of oil as far as 100 miles away, near the town of Hysham.

Exxon Mobil Pipeline Co. president Gary Pruessing said flyovers had shown most of the damage was limited to a 10-mile stretch of river. One of the company's main cleanup sites was about 20 miles downstream of the break.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

US cracks down on unemployment insurance fraud

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—A nationwide crackdown is coming for people fraudulently drawing unemployment payments—those who were never eligible and workers who keep getting checks after they return to work—a $17 billion benefits swindle last year alone, say federal officials. With the poor economy lingering and the jobless rate remaining high, Rhode Island and other states are stepping up efforts to stop the fraud and improper payments.

Immediate Greek default prevented, outlook fragile

BRUSSELS (AP)—Greece was pulled back from impending default Saturday, when eurozone finance ministers signed off on a vital loan installment. But the country's international creditors are showing more concern over whether it can service its debt in the long run. Athens will get a euro12 billion ($17.39 billion) tranche of its existing euro110 billion rescue package by July 15, in time to meet several bond repayment deadlines this month and next, the finance ministers of the 17 countries that share the euro said in a statement Saturday evening. The eurozone and the International Monetary Fund will also continue to prop up Greece's struggling economy in the coming years, with a second package of aid loans to be finalized by September.

Nation

AP

Sonja Smith, 17, from Los Alamos, N.M., moves things back into her home on Sunday, July 3, 2011.

Los Alamos evacuation lifted; 12K go home

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. (AP)—A smattering of summer rain gave a boost to firefighters battling a huge forest fire near Los Alamos, giving authorities enough confidence Sunday to allow about 12,000 people to return home for the first time in nearly a week.

Residents rolled into town, honking their horns and waving to firefighters as the word got out that the roadblocks were lifted and the narrow two-lane highway cut into the side of a mesa leading to Los Alamos was open. They had fled en masse last week as the fast-moving fire approached the city and its nuclear laboratory.

"Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!" yelled Amy Riehl, an assistant manager at the Smith's grocery store, as she arrived to help keep the store open for returning residents.

"It's scary, but all of the resources here this time, they were ready. They did a magnificent job," said Michael Shields, his eyes tearing up as he returned to his apartment in the heart of the town.

The town was last evacuated because of a devastating fire in 2000 that destroyed 200 homes and several businesses and damaged utilities and other county enterprises. This time, residents returned to a town that is completely intact, although the fire scorched 63 homes west of town along with 37 outbuildings and other structures.

The fire erupted June 26 in northern New Mexico when a tree fell onto powerlines, fire officials announced Sunday. Fueled by an exceptionally dry season in the Southwest and erratic winds, the fire has mushroomed to 189 square miles and was 19 percent contained as of Sunday night.

Although the threat to Los Alamos and the nation's premier nuclear research lab had passed, the wildfire raging was threatening sacred sites of American Indian tribes.

Hundreds of firefighters were working to contain the fire as it burned through a canyon on the Santa Clara Pueblo reservation and threatened other pueblos on the Pajarito Plateau.

The area, a stretch of mesas that run more than 15 miles west of Santa Fe, N.M., includes Los Alamos and the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Casey Anthony weeps as prosecutor calls her a liar

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Casey Anthony briefly wept Sunday as prosecutors told jurors during closing arguments that she murdered her 2-year-old daughter Caylee to reclaim the carefree life she had before the girl was born.

Prosecutors portrayed Anthony as a young mother who killed her daughter because she got in the way of her love life.

"Something needed to be sacrificed, that something was either the life she wanted or the life thrust upon her. She chose to sacrifice her child," prosecutor Jeff Ashton said during his 90-minute argument.

Defense attorney Jose Baez said the prosecutors' case was so weak they tried to portray Anthony as "a lying, no-good slut" and that their forensic evidence was based on a "fantasy." He said Caylee's death was "an accident that snowballed out of control."

Prosecutors contend Caylee was suffocated with duct tape by her mother, who then crafted elaborate lies to mislead investigators and her parents. Defense attorneys countered that the toddler accidentally drowned in the family swimming pool, and that Casey in fact was hiding emotional distress caused by alleged sexual abuse from her father. Her father has denied that claim.

Judge Belvin Perry ruled Sunday morning that there was no evidence of such abuse and that the defense could not allude to it in closing arguments. Jury deliberations are now expected to begin Monday after the prosecution gives its rebuttal arguments.

ACROSS THE NATION

NY motorcyclist dies on ride protesting helmet law

ONONDAGA, N.Y. (AP)—Police say a motorcyclist participating in a protest ride against helmet laws in upstate New York died after he flipped over the bike's handlebars and hit his head on the pavement. The accident happened Saturday afternoon in the town of Onondaga, in central New York near Syracuse. State troopers tell The Post-Standard of Syracuse that 55-year-old Philip A. Contos of Parish, N.Y., was driving a 1983 Harley Davidson with a group of bikers who were protesting helmet laws by not wearing helmets.

2 shot, including officer, in Memphis hotel

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Memphis police say a police officer and another person were shot at a hotel in the middle of a downtown tourist district packed for the Fourth of July holiday. A suspect is in custody. Officers responded to a call of shots being fired around 7 p.m. at the Doubletree Hotel. The stricken officer was taken in extremely critical condition to Regional Medical Center. Memphis Mayor A C Wharton Jr. and Police Director Tony Armstrong said it appeared to begin as a domestic incident. The names of the officer and other victim have not been released, pending notification of their families.

Asia

Thaksin party wins landslide Thai election victory

BANGKOK (AP)—The woman poised to become Thailand's first female prime minister acknowledged huge challenges in reconciling her divided country, after an election landslide seen as a rebuke of the military-backed establishment that ousted her brother in a 2006 coup.

Preliminary results from Sunday's poll showed 44-year-old Yingluck Shinawatra's Pheu Thai party winning the majority it needs to form the next government. If confirmed, the large mandate will likely boost Thailand's stability in the short term and reduce the chance of intervention by the coup-prone military five years after it ousted Yingluck's fugitive brother-in-exile, former premier Thaksin Shinawatra.

The victory comes one year after the government crushed protests by Thaksin supporters with a bloody crackdown that culminated some of the worst violence here in 20 years and ended with the capital ablaze in a wave of arson attacks allegedly carried out by fleeing protesters.

In a late night victory speech in Bangkok on Sunday, Yingluck said: "I don't like to say that Pheu Thai has won, but I'd rather say the people have given the Pheu Thai party and myself a chance to serve them."

AP

Yingluck Shinawatra, opposition Pheu Thai Party's candidate for prime minister acknowledges supporters after winning the election at the party headquarters in Bangkok on Sunday, July 3, 2011.

"There's still a lot of work to be done in the future, in terms of the well-being of the people and for the country's unity and reconciliation," Yingluck said.

On Monday, incumbent Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva resigned as leader of the outgoing ruling party, Democrat Party spokesman Buranaj Smutharaks.

The photogenic Yingluck is widely considered the proxy of her brother, who has called her "my clone." Thaksin, who was ousted as prime minister after being accused of corruption and showing disrespect to the nation's much-revered king, was barred from politics in 2007 and convicted on graft charges the next year. He lives in exile in Dubai.

Border strife in Afghanistan shows wider tensions

SIRKANAY, Afghanistan (AP)—On a mountain trail toward the border with Pakistan, the explosions became louder, more constant and finally visible as puffs of smoke on distant peaks and rising from valleys.

Families escaping the fusillade led donkeys strapped with mattresses and bags of clothes the other way, down the steep footpaths. They passed crippled trees, cratered houses, empty villages. Some of the villagers had shrapnel scars and described seeing relatives blown apart during a five-week artillery barrage from Pakistan.

"My grandson was nine years old," said Juma Gul, a 60-year-old village elder in the Sirkanay district in eastern Afghanistan. "He and three other children were herding our goats when a rocket came. All four were killed. We could not find most of their bodies."

A loud crack sounded and rolled over the peaks. Gul swept his hand toward the mountain range rising toward Pakistan. "Still the rockets are landing here," he said.

The shelling in Kunar province is taking place along one of the most strategically important fronts of the war—a haven for hardcore insurgent groups fighting in both Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Pakistan has been so stung by insurgents' recent cross-border attacks, they launched an offensive that also highlights NATO's struggles to pacify the area and the lack of cooperation between Afghanistan and Pakistan against their common foes.

NATO officials, in fact, say they were unaware of the extent of Pakistan's artillery barrage across Afghanistan's border until last week because Western troops have been pulled back from more remote outposts in Kunar.

ASIA BRIEFS

Rescuers rush to reach 40 trapped Chinese miners

BEIJING (AP)—A buildup of volatile gas hampered rescue efforts in one Chinese coal mine and high levels of water slowed them in another as emergency crews raced to reach 40 miners trapped Sunday for a second day, officials and state media reports said. The accidents—a cave-in at one mine and a flood at the other—occurred Saturday in two southern provinces after days of heavy rains. At the Heshan mine in Guangxi, rescuers vented explosive gas released from coal seams and pumped out silt-filled water as they tried to reach 19 miners believed to be 1,200 feet (390 meters) underground, the state media reports said. China Central Television interviewed a miner who said he heard a loud explosion before the cave-in, which killed at least three miners.

Reports: Woman catches toddler who fell 10 stories

BEIJING (AP)—A two-year-old Chinese girl left unattended fell 10 stories from her family's apartment window and survived after being caught by a woman passing by, state media reported Sunday. The toddler was in critical condition Sunday with internal bleeding and other unspecified injuries while the woman who saved her suffered a broken arm, China Central Television and the Xinhua News Agency said. The girl, named Zhang Fangyu but known by the nickname Niu Niu, was in the care of her grandmother Saturday afternoon when the older woman left the 10th-floor apartment outside the eastern city of Hangzhou to run an errand, CCTV said.

World

Turkey recognizes Libyan rebels, promises more aid

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP)—Turkey's foreign minister recognized Libya's rebel leaders as the country's legitimate representatives and promised them an additional $200 million in aid during a visit Sunday.

The visit by Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu marked Turkey's strongest show of support yet for the opposition forces trying to out Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi.

Turkey, a regional power, initially balked at the idea of military action in Libya and Turkish companies were involved in Libyan construction projects worth billions of dollars before the outbreak of an anti-Gadhafi uprising in February.

The revolt has turned into a protracted, largely deadlocked armed conflict, in which the rebels control Libya's eastern third, while Gadhafi clings to power in the west, but has been unable to crush pockets of resistance there. As a NATO member, Turkey is now supporting the alliance's airstrikes against targets linked to the Gadhafi regime.

Davutoglu met with Mustafa Abdul-Jalil, chairman of the rebels' National Transitional Council, in a heavily guarded government building in the city of Benghazi, the rebel's main stronghold in eastern Libya.

Later Sunday, a rebel spokesman played down media reports quoting Abdul-Jalil as saying Gadhafi has the option to remain in Libya, provided he resigns and orders a cease-fire. Abdel-Hafiz Ghoga suggested the rebel chief was expressing a personal view, saying that the idea is "not part of any discussions on our part in negotiations."

"Let Gadhafi show us one place in Libya where he hasn't harmed, tortured or killed people and he could stay there, but this place doesn't exist," said Ghoga.

The Turkish visitor, meanwhile, said his country recognizes the rebel leaders as the legitimate representatives of the Libyan people. Several other countries, including France, Qatar and Italy, have previously recognized the rebels.

Ali al-Essawi, who serves as the rebels' foreign minister, noted that "Turkey has given us political as well as financial support and humanitarian aid."

Turkey has already granted the Libyan opposition $100 million in aid and promised an additional $200 million. Some of the money is to be used to improve the infrastructure of Benghazi and rehabilitate its airport.

Temel Kotil, chief executive officer of the Turkish Airlines, said his company would resume flights to Benghazi as soon as the security situation improves. Mahmoud Jibril, one of the rebel leaders, will pay a two-day visit to Turkey on Tuesday to discuss the promised aid in more detail.

"For us, the destiny of Libya is the same as the destiny of Turkey," said Davutoglu. "I expressed our solidarity and commitment."

Davutoglu's trip to Benghazi on Sunday is the most powerful signal that Turkey, which has vast trade interests in Libya, is throwing its weight behind the Libyan opposition despite its long-time relations with Gadhafi.

Israel, Palestinians hope to avoid fall violence

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli and Palestinian security forces are already taking precautions to avoid an outbreak of violence after an expected U.N. vote for Palestinian independence in September, officials on both sides said Sunday, reflecting shared concerns about the possibility of renewed fighting this fall.

For now, Israeli and Palestinian officials said they do not want—or expect—armed hostilities to resume. But both sides fear that one small incident could quickly spin out of control.

"We need only popular and peaceful struggle," said Amin Makboul, a top official in Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah Party. "We want to show the world that we are responsible and deserve to be part of the international community."

After the bitter lessons of last decade's Palestinian uprising, the Palestinians do not want to give Israel any "pretext" to claim the Palestinians are not serious about creating a peaceful state, Makboul added.

A top Palestinian security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Abbas recently issued a straightforward order to his commanders: "I don't want any violent actions in September," the official quoted Abbas as saying. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was discussing a sensitive internal meeting.

Israeli and Palestinian officials both say the region is headed into uncharted waters if the Palestinians follow through on their pledge to turn to the United Nations.

WORLD BRIEFS

Gaza flotilla: We still plan to breach blockade

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Organizers of a Gaza-bound flotilla said Sunday they have not abandoned their plans to breach Israel's sea blockade of the territory despite a Greek government ban on their vessels leaving the country's ports. The campaign experienced a major setback when Greece announced its restrictions Friday, and authorities arrested the captain of a boat carrying American activists that tried to leave Greece without permission. However, coordinators of the flotilla were trying to maintain momentum with small protests in Athens in the face of increasing calls for them to scrap their campaign. On Saturday, the Middle East Quartet of Mideast mediators—the U.S., U.N., EU and Russia—urged governments to discourage Gaza-bound flotillas that could escalate tension in the region.

Thousands march in show of support for Chavez

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—A march by thousands of Venezuelans to mark the country's bicentennial quickly turned into a show of support Sunday for ailing President Hugo Chavez, who remained in Cuba recovering from the removal of a cancerous tumor. The president's red-clad supporters waved flags, beat drums and chanted "Long live Chavez!" They also displayed signs reading "Get well soon, commander" and "Venezuela is with you." A message on Chavez's Twitter account said he was doing his "daily exercises and receiving that bath of love" from the demonstrators in Caracas. "It's the best medicine!" he said in the message.

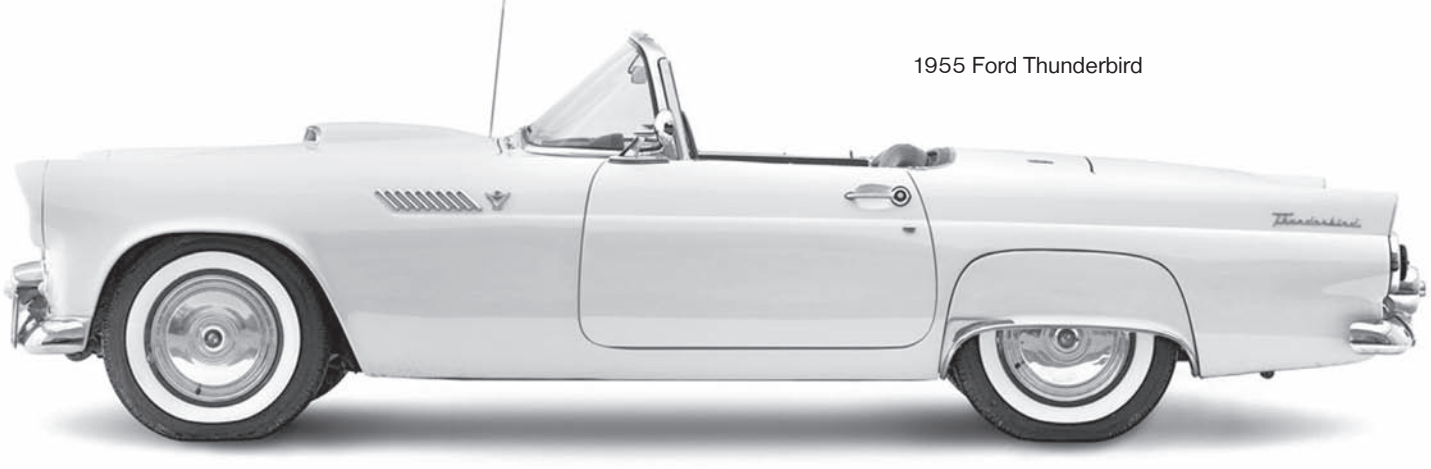
PRI wins key Mexico state election in landslide

TOLUCA, Mexico (AP)—Mexico's Institutional Revolutionary Party won the vote for governor of the country's most populous state in a landslide Sunday, strengthening the once-dominant party's bid to retake the presidency in national elections next year. The party, which ruled Mexico for 71 uninterrupted years before being voted out office in 2000, appeared headed for victories in gubernatorial elections in two other states: Coahuila and Nayarit. But it was the election in the state of Mexico, which surrounds Mexico City, that had been most closely watched for signs of whether the PRI was gaining or losing momentum heading into presidential elections in 2012.

Overdrive

A perfect time to celebrate automotive icons

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT


1955 Ford Thunderbird

It's July Fourth weekend, a time to celebrate all things American. Here are some cars that are so quintessentially American that they should be painted red, white and blue. Let's drive.

■ **1909 FORD MODEL T:** Henry Ford put America on wheels with the Model T, thanks to its simple, rugged design and ease of use. And Ford kept dropping the price. It was so popular, it accounted for one out of two cars in the early 20th century.

■ **1932 FORD V8:** This is the little deuce coupe of Beach Boys fame, the first car with an affordable V8 engine (courtesy of Henry Ford) and classic styling (courtesy of Edsel Ford). As any hot rodder will tell you, Ford's V8 was easy to modify.

■ **1940 JEEP:** Although originally developed by American Bantam of Butler, Pa., the quarter-ton 4x4 was built by Willys and Ford during WWII. Bantam was too small to supply enough Jeeps; they built the Jeep's trailers instead.

■ **1940 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL:** Originally conceived as a one-off for Edsel Ford, who asked for something European in flavor, the Continental provoked enough requests from Edsel's friends in Palm Beach that Lincoln put the car into production.

■ **1955 CHRYSLER C-300:** This is as close as Chrysler came to a sports car in the 1950s. They placed a Hemi V8 into a lightweight luxury coupe; a legend was born. It eventually spawned a series of high-performance large cars for most of the 1960s.

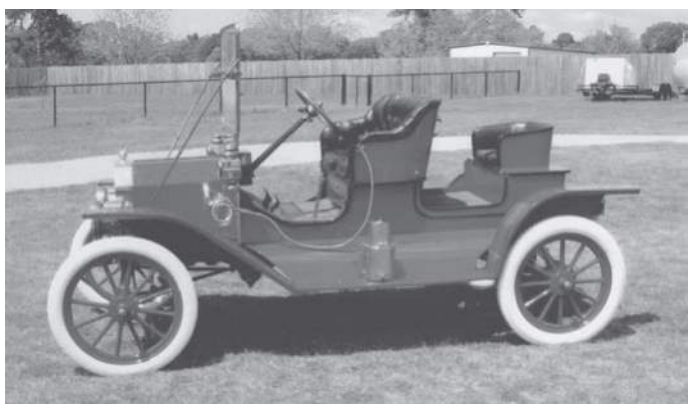
■ **1955 FORD THUNDERBIRD:** Sporty? Somewhat. Luxurious? To some extent. Stylish? No question. The T-bird oozes a '50s flair few cars can match. It was named for a god worshipped by American Indians as the bringer of rain and prosperity.

■ **1957 CHEVROLET BEL-AIR:** The 1957 Chevrolet was the pinnacle of a design that dates to 1955 and housed the legendary small block V8. Though it is now widely considered the ultimate '50s car, Ford was easily outselling Chevrolet in 1957.

■ **1959 CADILLAC ELDORADO:** Taking inspiration from a P-38 fighter, Cadillac sprouted fins in 1948. Eleven years later, they grew to outrageously large, as did all Cadillacs. To move all of that metal and kitsch, a 390 cubic-inch V8 supplied 345 horsepower.

■ **1963 CHEVROLET CORVETTE:** It took 10 years, but the Corvette came into its own in 1963, the year of the Corvette Sting Ray. It featured a fully independent suspension, optional fuel injection and two rear windows split by sheet metal.

■ **1964 1/2 FORD MUSTANG:** The Mustang was so popular, Ford sold a record 680,989 of the ponies in its first year. Furthermore, a whole genre of cars was named for it: pony cars. There have been many challengers, but the original is still the greatest.


1909 Ford Model T roadster.

1963 Chevrolet Corvette

Uphill parking spot puts pressure on transmission

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: My wife called the other day because she could not get the transmission shifted out of park on her 2008 Chevy Impala. The car started fine. She had it parked on a slight uphill inclined driveway. When a tow truck lifted the back of the car up so that the rear wheels were slightly above the front wheels, the transmission worked fine and has ever since. We are reminding each other never to park the car with the front end up. Any ideas?

ANSWER: The issue was most likely the parking pawl engagement in the transmission, which locks the final drive so the vehicle cannot move. With the car parked on an incline, the weight of the car "leaning" on the parking pawl and its engagement with the final drive internal gear in the transmission created far more resistance to disengagement.

Since the car is front-wheel-drive, when the tow truck lifted the back of the car to a level position, that "unloaded" the parking pawl and allowed easier disengagement.

To avoid this problem, fully set the parking brake before shifting the transmission into park to prevent the weight of the vehicle from "leaning" on the parking pawl. If you're going to use the parking brake, set it each and every time you park the vehicle in order to prevent the parking brake cables from corroding and sticking in the "on" position.

■■■

Q: I have a question on the "low fuel" light on my 1998 F-150 truck. If the fuel gauge is broken, will the "low fuel" light still work?

A: That depends. If the gauge in the instrument cluster itself has failed, the "low fuel" warning light may still illuminate when the tank is low on fuel. However, if the failure is in the fuel pump/sending unit inside the gas tank, I don't think the warning light will illuminate. If the gauge moves at all when you turn the key to the "on" position, it's probably OK. A more sophisticated test is to connect a special test unit to the harness connected at the fuel tank and vary the resistance in the circuit while watching the gauge. A simpler do-it-yourself test: With the gauge out of circuit, apply battery voltage to the "positive" side of the gauge. The needle should move all the way to the Full or Empty position, depending on the vehicle.

■■■

Q: I have a 1997 and a 2004 Lincoln Town Car. When the headlights are turned on during the day, the dash lights automatically dim, making it difficult or impossible to read the instrument panel. I see no need for this since there is a dimmer switch for the dash lights. I think it is a serious safety hazard. The dimmer switch does not overcome the decreased automatic illumination. Can anything be done?

A: When the headlights are manually turned on via the headlight switch or automatically activated by the ambient light sensor, the instrument lighting automatically dims on the assumption you're driving at night where full brightness of the instrument lights would be a significant visual distraction.

On the other hand, when the daytime running lights are activated by the Lighting Control Module when the key is in the "run" position, the headlight switch is in the "off" or "parking lights" position and the shift lever is not in park, the high beams operate at a reduced voltage/illumination level and the instrument lighting remains in the daylight mode.

In either scenario, you should be able to adjust the instrument lighting to provide "readable" instruments. The instrument lighting dimmer switch should allow full voltage/illumination of the instruments when adjusted to its maximum setting.

Perhaps this rheostat in the instrument lighting dimmer control is not allowing full illumination. Or perhaps there's an instrument bulb out or the plastic lens over the instrument cluster is scratched and dirty.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, *is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at:* Star Tribune, *425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. It isn't always possible to send a personal reply.*

UNDER THE HOOD

When key remote fails, check batteries, then car

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: I have a 2006 Camry LE 4-cylinder with 23,000 miles. Both hand-held remotes have stopped working. No doors, no trunk and no panic button. I replaced the batteries, but it didn't help so I presume the problem is in the auto. The door locks work fine using the inside lock buttons. Any ideas?—Fred Gerbino

ANSWER: Fred, let's start by taking another look at those remotes. Try scrubbing the battery terminals with a pencil eraser, then reinsert and rotate the batteries a few turns to insure the best possible connection. If both remotes still fail to function, the problem appears to be in the vehicle.

Your Camry's door control receiver is located within the rear roof pillar on the right side. Upon receipt of a transmitter signal, this box communicates with the body's electronic control unit, which sends commands to the appropriate door or trunk lock actuators. Diagnosis of these components and connecting wiring gets pretty techie after a check is made for diagnostic trouble codes stored in the electronic control unit. The only thing I can think of to have you check, prior to seeking professional diagnosis, is to be sure the dome light fuse is OK.

■■■

Q: Why do I want "variable valve timing"? I've seen this promoted and wonder if it's worth the added complication.—Jason Shuller

A: Variable valve timing, or VVT, is a neat system, as it optimizes engine performance over a wide range of engine speed. In addition to adjusting camshaft timing, many systems also have the ability to vary valve lift and/or duration. Without VVT, an engine's camshaft must strike a compromise between low speed torque, minimal emissions, best fuel economy and high output at faster engine speeds.

VVT typically utilizes a hydraulically operated camshaft sprocket that allows the camshaft to be driven up to about 40 degrees ahead of or behind the sprocket, similar to how you might rotate your wrist relative to your elbow. Cam and crank shaft position sensors keep the PCM (Powertrain Control Module) informed of actual cam position, and a control solenoid is pulsed to vary the delivery of engine oil to the sprocket actuator, which moves the cam to the desired position.

VVT allows the engine to be docile and efficient, then a tiger when called for. BMW's system is so versatile it eliminates the need for a throttle. A free-breathing intake reduces pumping losses, boosting engine efficiency by 10 to 15 percent.

From a durability standpoint, VVT looks good to me. With the exception of the fairly expensive cam sprocket, much of the rest of the system, such as the computer and sensors, was already in place.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

Never too late: Declaration signers being honored

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—It's William Whipple's turn to be recognized.

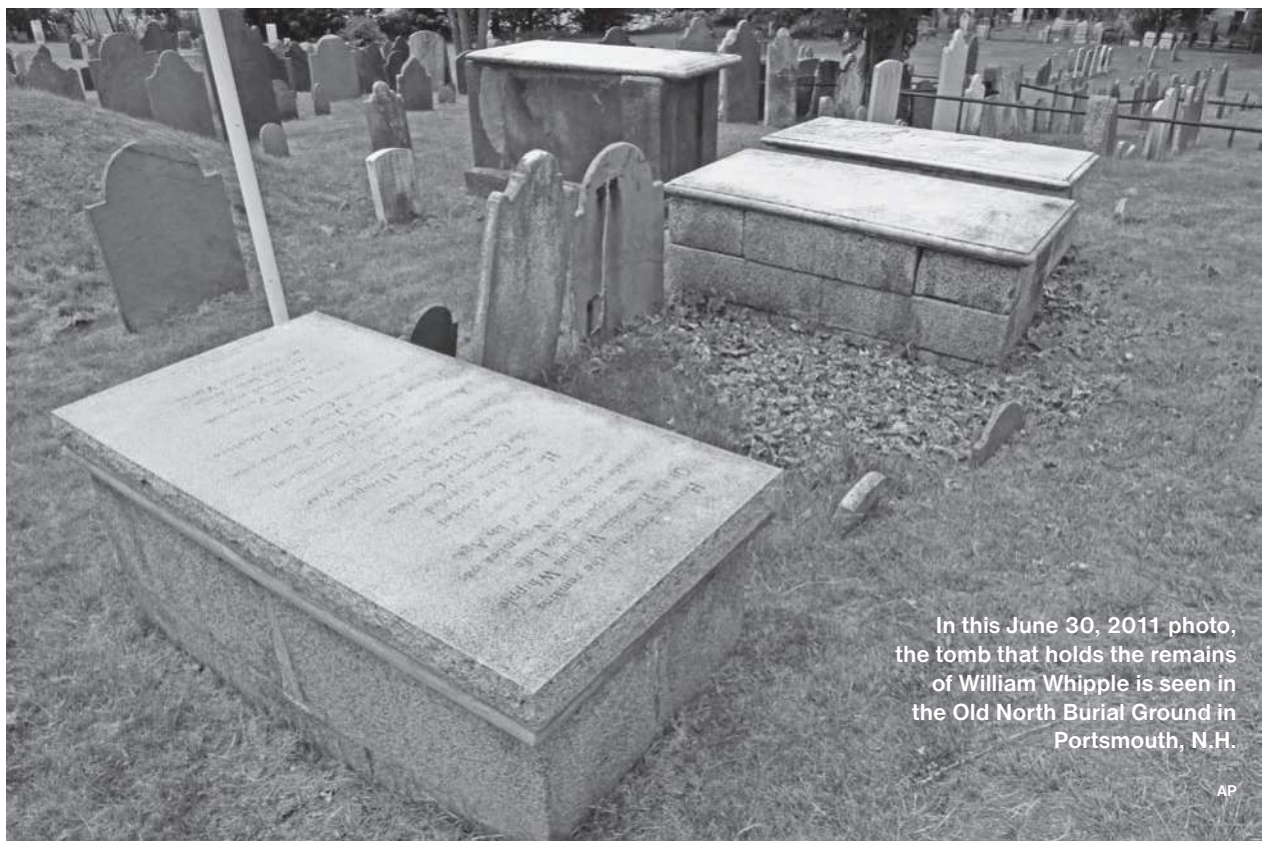
The New Hampshire merchant is one of the lesser-known signers of the Declaration of Independence. This year, there are plans for Whipple and 11 others to be honored for their place in history with a small bronze plaque at their gravesites or homes, thanks to a group of descendants of the Founding Fathers.

Whipple, one of three men from New Hampshire who signed the famous document—the others were Josiah Bartlett and Matthew Thornton—had no direct descendants. His only child, a boy, died as an infant and is buried near him at the Old North Cemetery in Portsmouth. Whipple, who also commanded troops during the Revolutionary War and served as a state judge and legislator, died in 1785 at age 55.

It's about time he was honored, said Blaine Whipple in Portland, Ore., a distant relative who has researched and published several volumes on 15 generations of the Whipple family in America.

"He was one of the workhorses of the Continental Congress," Whipple said. "He's never been given the credits that he earned." Whipple was chairman of the marine, foreign relations and quartermaster committees and served on another committee that gathered intelligence on the British, he said.

Whipple's gravesite mentions he was a member of the Continental Congress when America declared its freedom from Great Britain, but doesn't spell out his famous moment in time. The 104-year-old Society of the Descendants of the Declaration of Independence wants to change that for Whipple and the other signers, "to honor their memory and their great deed."



In this June 30, 2011 photo, the tomb that holds the remains of William Whipple is seen in the Old North Burial Ground in Portsmouth, N.H.

AP

"We try to do as many as we can, but it's a long process," said Grace Staller of West Chester, Pa., who heads the project for the nonprofit group. She's a ninth-generation descendant of signer John Hart from New Jersey, whose plaque is at the Old Baptist Meeting House in Hopewell.

The Portsmouth City Council recently approved the request. The city owns the cemetery.

Other plaque recipients—some better known than others—this year are John Adams, Samuel Adams, John Hancock, and Robert Treat Paine, Massachusetts; Charles Carroll, Maryland; Thomas Jefferson and Thomas Nelson, Virginia; Thomas Lynch and Arthur Middleton, South Carolina; James Smith, Pennsylvania; and Richard Stockton, New Jersey.

Some of the 56 signers, like Whipple, have no direct descendants. For others, it's not clear where they're buried. Some cemeteries don't allow the plaques. In addition to the 45 who will end up with plaques, there are 11 signers who won't be getting them; they will be honored at the historic Congressional Cemetery in Washington.

The bronze plaque quotes from the last sentence of the 1776 document, saying for the support of the declaration, "we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor."

"I've always been proud to be related to a signer of the Declaration of Independence. It's almost like a royal family," said Jeffrey Saurman of Portsmouth, a direct descendant of Thornton, whose memorial in Merrimack received one of the plaques last August. He said he was happy to share the moment with his children.

His son Josh, he said, recently completed a report on Thornton, a doctor, state representative and judge, for his sixth-grade class. The youngster took a photo of himself in period clothes next to a portrait of Thornton. "You could see some resemblance," his father said.

Saurman, who works at a family plumbing and heating business, said he was shocked and surprised that the plaques hadn't been made years earlier. "You would think something like that would've already been done."

William Whipple, who was born in Kittery, Maine, was a merchant in Portsmouth, a busy seaport and shipbuilding city. During the Revolutionary War, he was brigadier general of the New Hampshire Militia and was one of the negotiators of the surrender of British Gen. John Burgoyne at the Battle of Saratoga, a major turning point in the war.

Whipple kept a diary from that time, musing about how long it took for preparations to bring back Burgoyne so he could be sent back to Britain.

"He talks about Burgoyne holding them all up, and he wouldn't leave because he had to get his whole entourage together," said Barbara McLean Ward, curator of the Moffatt-Ladd House in Portsmouth, Whipple's home. The weather was fine, but when they finally left Saratoga, "it rained the entire time back ... It's all about sort of being miserable," she said.

Whipple freed his slave, Prince Whipple, who had fought with him in the war and was one of a group of slaves who had petitioned the Legislature for their freedom. Prince Whipple also is buried in the Old North Cemetery.

The Moffatt-Ladd House, a Georgian mansion built in 1763, is a national historic landmark that's open to the public. It has a portrait of Whipple, as well as some personal items, such as a sword. Outside the house is a 235-year-old horse chestnut tree, which he had planted after signing the Declaration of Independence, Ward said. The seeds were brought back from Philadelphia.

AP

In this June 26, 2011 file photo, singer Alicia Keys arrives at the BET Awards in Los Angeles.

Alicia Keys celebrates 10th anniversary of debut

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP MUSIC WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Music critics are invited to see burgeoning singer-songwriters almost every day. But when a request came across this writer's desk to see a young singer-songwriter at an intimate showcase 10 years ago, it carried with it high expectations.

Backed by music mogul Clive Davis, Alicia Keys was billed as a cross between Lauryn Hill and Whitney Houston, a gritty, cornrow-wearing R&B singer who was a brilliant, classically trained pianist with both a stunning voice and beauty. She was going to be big. Bigger than big. Grammy Awards and multiplatinum sales were more than hoped for, they were expected.

Keys delivered on the all hype when her debut, "Songs in A Minor," was released in 2001. The album established the 20-year-old as one of the most influential artists of her generation. Looking back, however, Keys says she did not expect the album would make her a superstar.

"This had been a lot of years of me struggling to put out any music, and there had been multiple times where we were like, 'Oh, it's gonna happen, it's gonna happen,' and it didn't. So in a lot of ways in my mind, I think maybe I was protecting myself," she recalled.

Now, the 30-year-old Keys can celebrate. The album is being rereleased this week with special editions that include previously unreleased tracks and video footage. Keys, who married music producer Swizz Beatz and gave birth to a son last year, also was performing songs from the album Thursday in a concert at New York's Beacon Theatre.

"There are certain things you have to celebrate, like certain birthdays are more special than the others, just because they kind of represent a growth, so for me, that's what this is," she said in a phone interview last week. She talked about that milestone album and how she has evolved over the decade.

The Associated Press: Had you been thinking about the anniversary?

Keys: I didn't even really realize it; somebody else kind of brought it up to me. ... (But) as I started thinking of it, and we started talking about it, I knew there were tons of songs from that time that I didn't put out. I didn't do anything with (them) because it wasn't right for the time, but I thought, 'How crazy would it be to go back and listen to them and figure out which were ones that I'd love people to hear.' There are songs that I did when I was 16, 17. It's really, really cool.

AP: In the video that accompanies the rerelease, you talk about how you weren't the refined girl people expected. What were the adjustments that you had to make over the years, and how have you changed?

Keys: I was straight off the streets of Harlem and Hell's Kitchen. ... I'm a real New York girl. So I think that was kind of a bit of a shock for people, especially back then, to see a real New York girl, and here I was doing all of these interviews. ... When I look back at them, I'm like, 'Damn, Alicia, you could have been a little gentler.' I just had a certain kind of roughness to me. That was just because that's the way I associated with people at the time; that's the way that I spoke. ... I remember reading a couple of things where they literally kind of criticized the way that I used my hands, or the way that I spoke, or say that I was whatever because I spoke a certain way. There were a lot of judgments, I think, that definitely made me conscious about how to start to maybe be a little bit more aware of how I was coming off ... but I'm still the same me.

AP: How have you musically evolved?

Keys: (What) I really learned about music is that you don't understand it. That's the part about it. There really is no formula, ... it's all about a gift, it's like a moment, and you don't know when that moment is going to come. ... (Also) I've been able to be more experimental and just more open and more driven to do things that are new and different from me, because as an artist, you just always want to do things that are like unique and new and fresh. You don't ever want someone to say, 'Oh yeah, that's that same thing that she does.' For me, I want it to always be new.

AP: How has marriage and motherhood changed you?

Keys: It's made me so much stronger, it's made me so much more powerful. First of all, I'm having more fun than I've ever had in my whole life. I'm happier than I've ever been in my whole life. And I also realize more the importance of time, and I realize the importance of really, really making sure that you dedicate certain times to the people that you love. Back when I was younger, I was so focused on doing whatever it takes to get noticed, or getting a chance to have my music be heard by people, I didn't recognize how much time was valuable. ... It helps me make more clear and concise choices.

AP: Do you miss your cornrows? That was your signature look.

Keys: I do miss my braids so much. ... Sometimes I'm like, 'I'm gonna throw them back in!'

Shia LaBeouf: This is my last 'Transformers'

AP

In this Thursday, June 23, 2011 file photo actor Shia LaBeouf poses during a photo call for the world premiere of Hollywood blockbuster Transformers: Dark of the Moon, in Moscow.

MOSCOW (AP)—Shia LaBeouf's days of battling the Decepticons look to be over, with the Transformers star saying he has nothing more to offer after three films playing kid-next-door Sam Witwicky.

The 26-year-old American actor said he was through with the action-packed franchise.

"I'm done," he told The Associated Press at the recent opening of "Transformers: Dark of the Moon" at the Moscow International Film Festival. " I'm sure they will make more of them. It's still a very hot franchise."

He added "I love making them (the movies). I love the crew. I love Michael (Bay). I love the cast. I love Sam ... but I don't have anything new to contribute and I don't think there's anywhere to take Sam really."

LeBeouf's nerdy character helped one alien race of robots, the Transformers, overpower another race, the evil Decepticons, with Earth as the battleground.

Directed by Michael Bay, "Transformers 3" also stars Patrick Dempsey, Frances McDormand, John Malkovich and Victoria's Secret model Rosie Huntington-Whitely. Paramount Pictures said the movie earned $37.3 million Wednesday in the U.S. on its first day—a 40 percent drop from its predecessor, "Revenge of the Fallen."

LaBeouf explained Witwicky's role in the latest movie.

"Nobody really cares about Sam anymore. He has no purpose. He saved the world twice and has sort of been thrown to the side. This is a dude who used to validate himself on his involvement with these robots, (but) these robots no longer need him," he said in the AP interview. "This is like the most broken Sam's ever been in the three movies ... and he sort of builds himself up through the course of the film."

In addition to the Transformers series, the talented actor also starred in the 2010 film "Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps," ''Eagle Eye" in 2008 and "Disturbia" in 2007.

The Transformers trilogy was based on the cartoons of 1980s that were themselves inspired by the Marvel Comics comic book of the same name.

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Transformers: Dark of the Moon
Fri thru Sun 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Mon thru Thurs 1:00 4:00 7:00
Shia LaBeouf, Josh Duhamel
Action, Science fiction • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Director Michael Bay returns to wreak more robotic mayhem in this third entry of the Transformers franchise. Penning the further adventures of the Autobots and Decepticons is Ehren Kruger, who co-wrote the second installment, along with Star Trek's Alex Kurtzman and Roberto Orci.

Monte Carlo
Fri thru Sun 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:45
Mon thru Thurs 1:10 4:10 7:10
Selena Gomez, Leighton Meester
Comedy • Rated PG

Larry Crowne
Friday & Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
Mon thru Thurs 1:30 4:30 7:30
Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts
Comedy drama • Rated PG 13

★ ★ ★

Cars 2
Fri thru Sun 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35
Mon thru Thurs 1:05 4:05 7:05
Owen Wilson, John Turturro
Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis
Ratatouille producer Brad Lewis steps into the director's chair for this sequel that follows race-tack legend Lightning McQueen and his trusty sidekick, Mater, as they secure their passports and prepare to take part in the biggest and fastest race on the planet.

Bad Teacher
Fri thru Sun 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:40
Mon thru Thurs 1:25 4:25 7:25
Cameron Diaz, Justin Timberlake
Comedy • Rated R

Green Lantern
Fri thru Sun 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:50
Mon thru Thurs 1:15 4:15 7:15
Ryan Reynolds, Blake Lively
Action • Rated PG 13

Mr. Popper's Penguins
Fri thru Sun 1:20 4:20 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 1:20 4:20
Jim Carrey, Carla Gugino
Children's/family, Comedy • Rated PG

Super 8
Fri thru Sun 9:30
Mon thru Thurs 7:20
Kyle Chandler, Elle Fannning
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

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Talent show mulled for Timberlake's Myspace

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Justin Timberlake's longtime manager Johnny Wright said Friday that a talent show or some other way of developing new artists will be core to the revamp of Myspace.

The kernel of an idea is what has emerged from a frenzied two weeks of deal-making that brought the former 'N Sync pop star into a partnership with new buyers of the ailing website.

"Whether it becomes a talent competition or something like that, those are things that we will still flesh out," said Wright, who has managed Timberlake since his 'N Sync days. "We definitely want to bring the industry back to Myspace to really look at the talented people that have put their faces there."

Timberlake and the new management of the social networking site will explain their plans at a press conference Aug. 17.

His new partner is Irvine, California-based online ad network operator, Specific Media. It said Wednesday afternoon that it had bought Myspace from News Corp. The deal was for $35 million, mostly in stock.

Hours later, Specific Media said in a second release that Timberlake had become a part owner and would be a creative force behind the social network's revival with his own office and staff.

Timberlake's partnership deal hadn't been completed until 30 minutes before Specific Media's Myspace purchase was made public.

It capped a rushed courtship, starting with an idea hatched by Nicole Winnaman, a branding executive who has also worked with Timberlake since his 'N Sync days.

She knew the people at Specific Media, including its founding brothers, Tim, Chris and Russell Vanderhook, and got approval from Wright to explore a partnership two weeks ago.

The Vanderhooks jumped aboard on Thursday last week, without even knowing they'd win the bidding for Myspace.

"It was the Thursday before. They said, 'Let's go, let's see if we can pull this together,'" Winnaman said.

Wright, Winnaman and the Vanderhooks met Friday last week at Los Angeles International Airport for a meal and conference call with Timberlake, who was in New York. They all met again in New York late Tuesday afternoon, where everyone was "instantaneously aligned," Winnaman said. Lawyers worked through the night before the deal was announced Wednesday.

Wright said Timberlake is anxious to get to work. The day after the deal closed, Timberlake sent Wright an e-mail saying, "Are you up? My mind is going dizzy with ideas. I need to talk."

Monaco's Princess Charlene chose daring tiara

MONACO (AP)—At her royal wedding, Britain's Kate Middleton donned an heirloom tiara charged with historical significance. Princess Charlene of Monaco opted for something much more personal, choosing a bold, asymmetrical creation in diamond and white gold that symbolizes the one-time Olympic swimmer's love for the sea.

Made by French-German jeweler Lorenz Baumer, the "Diamond Foam" tiara in white gold and nearly 60 karats worth of diamonds evokes the spray thrown off a crashing wave. Thin strips of precision-cut diamonds arch up from behind the left ear and fan out in an almost punk-ish explosion at the temple. Large round cut diamonds, the largest weighing 8 karats, punctuate the ends of the sparkling arcs.

"Princess Charlene is a swimmer and Monaco is this little contort on the Mediterranean, so the reference to the sea was something very personal for her and at the same time a symbol of the Monegasque people," Baumer told The Associated Press in an interview.

The princess wore the headpiece to the lavish multi-course gala dinner that capped the two-day-long festivities around Charlene's long-awaited marriage to Monaco's ruling prince, Albert II, the palace said Sunday.

Baumer said the palace contacted him about five months before the wedding to ask him to submit designs for a tiara that was to be among the prince's wedding gifts to his betrothed. Baumer submitted three sketches, as did "all the major jewelry houses you can think of.

"They spread the drawings out. None of them had the names of the houses, just the drawings, and the prince and princess chose mine," said Baumer, who is also artistic director for Paris luxury label Louis Vuitton's fine jewelry line. "It was really an honor."

Baumer traveled to Monaco for the first of four meetings with Charlene, "who received me in the palace wearing a sweat suit—she's really relaxed." The princess, who before her civil marriage Friday was known as Charlene Wittstock, gave Baumer ideas on how to improve the design.

The jeweler, an engineer by training, said the tiara can be taken apart to be used as a small or large brooch or a hairpiece. It comes with a chic little screwdriver topped with flourishing Cs for Charlene.

Baumer declined to give the price of the tiara, but hinted at a consequent sum.

The son of a German diplomat father and French mother, Baumer was born in the U.S. and lived in half a dozen countries before settling in Paris. After studying at the French capital's prestigious Ecole Central, Baumer started designing costume jewelry.

Jim Morrison honored on anniversary of his death

PARIS (AP)—Former members of The Doors have marked the 40th anniversary of the death of Jim Morrison by lighting candles at his grave in Paris.

Morrison, the lead singer of the rock band known for his partying lifestyle, died on July 2, 1971, at age 27 of heart failure in his bathtub in Paris, and his grave at Pere Lachaise cemetery remains a pilgrimage site for fans.

On Sunday, band members Ray Manzarek, the keyboardist, and guitarist Robby Krieger, lit candles at the grave of Morrison, who was known by the nickname the "lizard king."

Fans of Morrison, who some considered a poet, also paid homage at his grave by leaving flowers there. Some wore black T-shirts containing a white drawing of Morrison's face and the words "40th anniversary."

AP

Former members of The Doors rock band, Ray Manzarek, keyboardist, right, and guitarist Robby Krieger, light candles at the grave of Jim Morrison at the Pere Lachaise cemetery in Paris Monday July 3, 2011.

Prague names street after Ronald Reagan

PRAGUE (AP)—A street in the Czech capital has been named after former U.S. President Ronald Reagan to honor his contribution to the fall of communism.

The street is located in front of the U.S. ambassador's residence in the Prague 6 district. Former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice helped unveil the new name of the street Friday.

U.S. Ambassador Norman Eisen thanked Prague authorities and called the move a "truly fitting commemoration to the man who in so many ways lay the groundwork for our strong partnership today."

Three other streets in Prague had been previously named after U.S. presidents—George Washington, Woodrow Wilson and Franklin D. Roosevelt. A statue of Reagan was unveiled Wednesday in Hungary's capital, Budapest.

Judge sides with Kevin Costner in sculpture dispute

RAPID CITY, South Dakota (AP)—A judge has ruled in favor of Kevin Costner in a dispute between the Hollywood actor and an artist he commissioned to create a bronze sculpture for a resort in South Dakota's Black Hills.

The dispute centered around whether there was agreement between Costner and artist Peggy Detmers on the site where the artwork now sits. The Rapid City Journal reports that Judge Randall Macy ruled there was.

Under terms of the contract, if the two hadn't agreed on a site, Costner was to sell the sculpture and split the proceeds. Costner said there was agreement; Detmers said she had little say on the site. The resort has not materialized after 20 years.

Costner's attorney says the actor is "well satisfied." Detmers declined immediate comment.

Woman dies in accident at Roskilde Festival

ROSKILDE, Denmark (AP)—A young woman died Sunday and another person was injured after they fell from a tower at the Roskilde music festival in Denmark, police said.

Police spokesman Carsten Andersen said the woman, aged between 25 and 30, died after falling from a 30-meter (98-foot) tower in the festival's camping area.

Andersen said another person was lightly injured in the same fall. The tower was the starting point for an aerial cable ride run by one of the festival's sponsors.

Police don't know what caused the accident and haven't yet identified the two.

Festival spokesman Mads Mikkelsen said the accident was "very tragic," but declined to comment further until he had received more detailed information from the police. The Roskilde Festival is Denmark's largest rock festival and some 75,000 people had bought tickets for this year's event.

The accident was the first deadly incident since the tragedy in 2000, when nine people died and 43 were injured after an out-of-control crowd pushed forward during a Pearl Jam gig.

Radiohead ventures into Chinese social media

HONG KONG (AP)—Radiohead has taken a tentative step into censored Chinese cyberspace, even though the British rock band has been critical of China's human rights record.

Radiohead recently launched a page on the "weibo" site of leading Chinese Internet portal Sina.com. "Weibo," which translates as "microblog," is the Chinese-equivalent of Twitter.

But the band has only posted a single message on Friday. It says "testing the weibo."

Sina.com checks the authenticity of celebrity weibos and has certified the Radiohead weibo as genuine.

The move comes despite Radiohead's activism against Chinese government policies. The rock group has performed at Free Tibet concerts and in December, posted a note on its official website urging fans to campaign for the release of Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo, who won the Nobel Peace Prize last year. "You know it makes sense," the band said.

Such comments will be unthinkable on Radiohead's Sina microblog. The Chinese government screens Internet content for material it deems politically sensitive, such as calls for greater autonomy in Tibet and commentary on the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown. Foreign social media sites such as YouTube, Facebook and Twitter are blocked.

Microblogs are required to delete questionable posts. Sina CEO Charles Chao told Forbes magazine in March that its weibo has at least 100 employees monitoring content 24 hours a day.

AP

In this June 24, 2011 file photo, Thom Yorke of Radiohead performs as a special guest on the Park Stage at Glastonbury Music Festival, in Glastonbury, England.

In a recent example of suspected celebrity censorship, Hong Kong actress-singer Gigi Leung last year removed an excerpt from a news story about a Chinese activist's court case from her Sina weibo account. Fans believe Leung was muzzled but her agent said she removed the story herself after some of her followers left messages saying they were upset by the story.

Radiohead's testing of the weibo platform highlights the dilemma facing foreign acts eager to tap the massive potential of the Chinese market because they must be willing to subject themselves to some degree of censorship.

Foreign musicians have been scrutinized after Icelandic singer Bjork shouted "Tibet!" during a 2008 concert in Shanghai following a song called "Declare Independence." A year later, another British rock group, Oasis, scrapped its planned debut in China, saying Ministry of Culture officials were offended by the fact that front man Noel Gallagher performed at a Free Tibet concert in New York City in 1997.

There was much speculation about whether Chinese censors would set restrictions on anti-establishment icon Bob Dylan when he performed in China in April. Dylan said in May that Chinese officials asked him for a song list but didn't censor it.

Radiohead's appeal in China is clear from the big following its weibo quickly drew. The website now has nearly 49,000 followers and its terse first message has drawn 3,800 comments and already been reposted nearly 10,000 times.

"Is this for real?" user BrattyB said.

"OMG ... PLS COME TO SHANGHAI !!!PLS!!!!" another user, Stephan Li, wrote.

Readers run hot and cold on toilet brush in dishwasher

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: The letter from "Turned Off in Texas" (May 18) caught my attention. While I agree that putting a toilet brush in the dishwasher with the dishes was unexpected and off-putting—we don't ever want to link the toilet with our food—I think your answer showed a little overreaction. Running the dishes in another cycle should take care of any concerns as long as the water is hot.

Studies have shown that the inside of the average public toilet bowl is not as bacteria-laden as a public drinking fountain. Our disgust is emotional, not likely fact-based. As I told a colleague during his wife's baby shower, you have to believe in the power of soap and water or you won't survive parenthood.

While it's worthwhile for "Turned Off" to tell his stepdaughter that this practice is unacceptable to him, it is no reason not to eat at her house—unless she's not cooking food properly.

FACTS OVER EMOTION IN MIAMI

DEAR FACTS: Thank you for your letter. Frankly, I was as grossed out by what "Turned Off" saw his stepdaughter do as he was. So it surprised me to find that many of my readers weren't as affected by the "ew" factor. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: It's possible that what "Turned Off" perceived to be a toilet brush was never used for cleaning a toilet. I bought a brand-new toilet scrubber to keep under the kitchen sink. I use it only for cleaning the garbage disposal. Afterward, I wash it in the sink, not the dishwasher. Let's give the stepdaughter the benefit of the doubt. Things are not always what they appear to be.

NOT DISGUSTED IN ARCADIA, CALIF.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I can top the letter from the gentleman who said his stepdaughter, after cleaning his house when his wife fell ill, put the toilet brush in the dishwasher. My daughter has a close friend who told her she and her husband put the cat's litterbox in the dishwasher when they want to clean it. I was mortified, as was my daughter. You'd never guess it—she's an otherwise clean-appearing person. Well, needless to say, we no longer eat at this woman's home.

ANONYMOUS IN CONNECTICUT

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I clean houses for a living and I thought it was a smart way to wash that scrubber. The dishwasher uses scalding hot water that kills all germs. In addition, most toilet cleansers contain bleach, so there is little chance germs could survive on the brush. If you're still concerned, you could run it through the dishwasher separately.

TERESA IN TENNESSEE

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a retired doctor. I have been in the Army, slept in the woods and eaten three-day-old food—so I know a little bit about germs. The hot water and soap will take care of any bacteria on the brush. (It's unaesthetic, but not unsanitary.) The brush will be as clean as your hands are when you wash them after using the toilet. I would be happy to eat off the plates that came out of that dishwasher.

DR. M. IN NAPLES, FLA.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: We bought a new toilet seat a few years back, and on the instructions it stated that it was "dishwasher safe." That made me think at the time, "Who in their right mind would remove a toilet seat in order to run it through the dishwasher, and why would they want to?"

L.O.L. IN ANDERSON, S.C.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

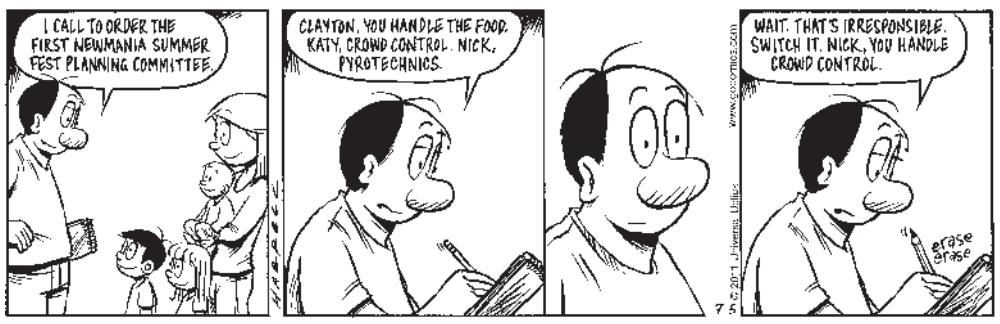
LEAVE YOUR TIGER IN THE CAR, CALVIN.
CAN'T HOBBES COME ALONG, DAD? HE WON'T EAT ANYBODY!
NO, CALVIN. LETS GO.
WELL, AT LEAST LET ME OPEN THE WINDOW AND GIVE HIM SOME AIR.
SEE IF HE'LL LEAVE THE KEYS, TOO, SO I CAN LISTEN TO THE RADIO.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I CALL TO ORDER THE FIRST NEWMANIA SUMMER FEST PLANNING COMMITTEE.
CLAYTON, YOU HANDLE THE FOOD. KATY, CROWD CONTROL. NICK, PYROTECHNICS.
WAIT. THAT'S IRRESPONSIBLE. SWITCH IT. NICK, YOU HANDLE CROWD CONTROL.
erase erase

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

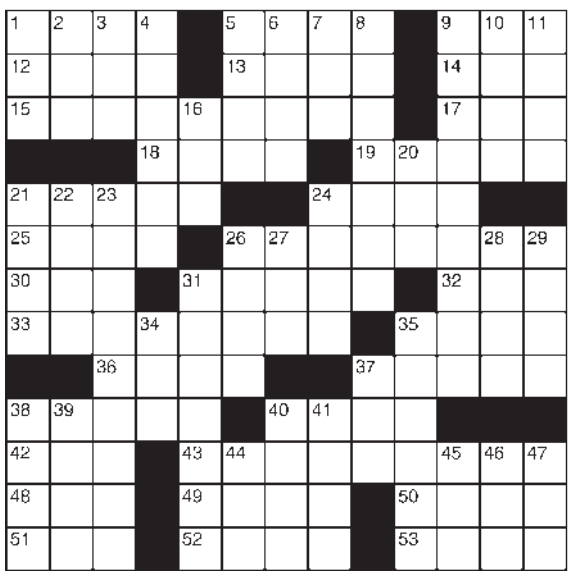
ACROSS
1 — Romeo
5 Mr. Disney
9 Bribe
12 Indonesian island
13 Screenwriter James
14 Dusk-dawn link
15 Venue for Matlock
17 Carte lead-in
18 Building extension
19 Singer Cline
21 "King Lear" daughter
24 DNA bit
25 Wrong
26 Troubadour
30 Witness
31 "Goodbye, Mr. Chips" star Robert
32 Raw rock
33 Cops' district
35 Venetian magistrate
36 Ship of 1492
37 Knight's apparel
38 Really thin person
40 "My Fair —"
42 Cattle call
43 Business meeting site
48 Yoko of music
49 Touch
50 Eye layer
51 Workout place
52 Neat
53 — a soul (nobody)

DOWN
1 "Wipeout" network
2 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
3 Winter ailment
4 Plane's route
5 Caution
6 Enthusiastic
7 Zodiac sign
8 Storm
9 Cruise ship accommodation
10 Rembrandt's supply
11 Theatrical presentation
16 Stannum
20 Pismire
21 Grate
22 Basin accessory
23 Where performers wait to go on
24 Summertime pest
26 "— Lisa"
27 Biz letterhead abbr.
28 Therefore
29 Lecherous look
31 Nitwit
34 U.S. spy org.
35 Rehearsal
37 Toss in
38 Air pollutant
39 Rabbit
40 Praise to the skies
41 Bohemian
44 Sapporo sash
45 Eggs
46 "— the ramparts ..."
47 Has permission

Solution time: 21 mins.

D	A	M	P	■	B	R	A	■	P	I	E	D
E	X	T	E	R	I	O	R	■	R	O	D	E
L	E	A	N	O	N	M	E	■	E	T	A	L
■	■	■	C	A	D	■	A	H	L	A	M	E
A	P	H	I	D	■	C	C	I	I	■	■	■
P	A	U	L	■	D	O	O	R	M	A	N	■
T	I	L	■	W	J	L	D	E	■	B	I	B
■	N	A	M	A	S	T	E	■	M	E	N	U
■	■	■	A	L	A	S	■	B	A	T	E	S
C	R	A	T	E	R	■	C	O	N	■	■	■
L	I	F	T	■	M	E	A	N	T	O	M	E
A	C	R	E	■	E	M	P	O	R	I	U	M
P	O	O	R	■	D	U	E	■	A	L	M	S

Yesterday's answer 7-5



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kathryn Erbe, 46; Edie Falco, 48; Huey Lewis, 61; Shirley Knight, 75.

Happy Birthday: You need to broaden your horizons. Get involved in something that interests you or go places that offer mental stimulation. You are thirsty for knowledge and need to experiment with new means of doing things. Greater participation will lead to interesting new friendships and greater popularity. Love is on the rise. Your numbers are 1, 10, 13, 20, 24, 31, 40.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Put greater emphasis on performance. The way you handle yourself under pressure will impress someone who can help you advance. Don't let a bad vibe at home get you down. If someone is being difficult, keep your distance. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take time to have fun and explore new avenues. Opportunities will develop through the people and pastimes you encounter. Romance is in the stars, so engage in an activity conducive to love. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Being playful is good, but don't have fun at the expense of someone's feelings. You have to be careful not to say something that will cause an emotional mishap. Put your effort into moneymaking proposals or projects that expand your interests. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Make the first move. Say what's on your mind tactfully. Use your insight when dealing with emotional matters. A partnership will enable you to build a secure and stable connection with someone. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Nothing should matter as much as what you have to accomplish. Look at the big picture and don't let the little things get you down. If you are calculating and precise, you will fit everything in to your schedule and still leave room for something new. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't be afraid to show your emotions. You stand a better chance of getting what you want if you are open about the way you feel. Changes at home or to your geographical location will pay off. Focus on creativity, innovation and, most of all, romance. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Get busy fixing up your house or planning for something you want to host. Do your best to sign paperwork that can lead to a secure future. Don't let someone or something you love sway you from making the right decision. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Say less and do more. Once you have established your priorities and shown everyone what you can do, the rest will fall into place. Love is on the rise and a commitment will help change your life for the better. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't get angry over an emotional matter. That is what everyone expects and will criticize. Instead, make the necessary changes to alter a situation that is bothering you without making a fuss. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Set your goals and stick to your plans. Don't let a mishap or someone's change of heart stand in the way of your accomplishments. Love is in the stars, but if you don't do something conducive to romance, you aren't likely to enjoy the benefits. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't push your luck when dealing with friends, relatives or neighbors. You have to make allowances for others if you want to keep things running smoothly. Work toward making your home user-friendly. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Love looks very promising. Take the initiative to make things happen. Spend time developing a creative idea and you will find a way to market it successfully. You can take care of a problem that has been holding you back if you go directly to the source. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have a good sense of what you can and cannot do. You are confident, caring, responsible, open and honest.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4			5	3	2			7
	8						6	
				1				
2				9				8
8		7				4		3
6				5				9
				6				
	5						1	
1			4	8	9			6

Difficulty Level ★★ 7/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	9	4	6	7	1	8	5	3
3	5	1	9	8	2	7	4	6
8	6	7	4	3	5	2	1	9
5	8	3	2	6	7	4	9	1
6	1	2	8	9	4	3	7	5
7	4	9	1	5	3	6	2	8
9	2	6	5	4	8	1	3	7
1	3	5	7	2	6	9	8	4
4	7	8	3	1	9	5	6	2

Difficulty Level ★ 7/05

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HOT BUTTON ISSUES — Solution: 7 letters

R	I	G	H	T	S	L	A	I	C	N	A	N	I	F
E	M	U	N	I	C	I	P	A	L	A	I	C	O	S
L	N	O	I	T	U	T	I	T	S	N	I	R	C	S
A	A	O	E	R	A	C	H	T	L	A	E	H	T	S
T	Ⓒ	I	I	J	P	A	R	T	Y	I	O	R	E	T
I	Ⓐ	T	S	T	M	R	U	S	G	O	O	T	N	N
O	Ⓢ	C	I	R	A	S	O	N	L	P	A	E	Y	E
N	Ⓔ	Y	A	V	E	C	I	T	E	B	M	S	T	M
S	S	G	M	U	I	V	U	R	E	N	A	T	I	U
H	E	O	R	T	S	S	O	D	O	S	E	U	C	G
I	C	L	O	A	W	E	M	R	E	R	T	D	I	R
P	N	O	F	X	E	T	I	I	T	C	R	I	N	A
S	A	E	E	E	N	V	O	T	I	N	G	E	H	C
E	T	H	R	S	N	O	I	N	I	P	O	S	T	E
Y	S	T	R	E	A	T	M	E	N	T	S	C	E	S

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Yesterday's Answer: Playful

CLASSIFIED ADS

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Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE] Civil Action: 11-0125-FCD
JING ZHIQIANG]

NOTICE OF THIRD MOTION TO APPOINT GUARDIAN FOR JING ZHIQIANG

Hearing Date: July 28, 2011
Time: 10:30am
Judge: Perry B. Inos

Please take notice that a hearing will be held on the Motion to Appoint Guardianship for Jing Zhiqiang in this case at 10:30am, on July 28, 2011, in the courtroom of the Honorable Perry B. Inos at the Guma Husticia, Imwaal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950.

/s/ Deputy Clerk

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP11-CDA-04

SUBMISSION: Wednesday, July 20, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FY2011 & 2012 FOR THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY"

COPIES OF THE PROPOSAL MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, WAKIN'S BLDG., GUALO RAI, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY FACSIMILE REQUEST TO 235-7147.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director, CDA

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Rehabilitation Council
PO Box 506296 Saipan, MP 96950,
TEL.: (670)322-6537 FAX: (670)322-6536
TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY '11 Third General Membership on Wednesday, July 6, 2011 at the Lilac, Saipan World Resort at 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review and adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and adoption of the FY'11 2nd Meeting Minutes (04/07/11)
V. Reports
  a. OVR Director
  b. SRC Chairman
  c. Sub-Committees
VI. Old Business
  • 2012 State Plan
  • OVR Policy Manual
VII. New Business
  • 2011 NDEAM
VIII. Consumer Forum
IX. Announcements
X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) two days before the meeting. For more clarification, please contact Elvira Seman at 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY).

/s/ Jesus M. Elameto
CHAIRMAN

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Statewide Independent Living Council
"Yes I Can!"
P.O. BOX 506296, SAIPAN, MP 95950
TEL: (670) 322-6537/8 FAX: (670) 322-6536
TTY: (670) 322-6449; E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2011 Third General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, July 07, 2011 at the Chamolinian Room, Hyatt at 9:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Roll Call
II. Adoption of Agenda
III. Review and adoption of April 05, 2011 Minutes
IV. Reports
  • Chairman
  • OVR Director
  • CLI Director
V. Old Business
  • Membership Training
  • CLI Visit & Tour
  • Membership Status
VI. New Business
  • NDEAM
  • SILC Congress representation
VII. Announcements
VIII. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Elvira Seman (Council Liaison) two days in advanced for necessary arrangements.

/s/ Stephen Dutro
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

Find today's solution in this section

Bautista hits 27th homer as Blue Jays beat Phils

TORONTO (AP)—Jose Bautista hit his major league-leading 27th home run, one of three Toronto homers in a four-run eighth, as the Blue Jays ended Cliff Lee's scoreless innings streak at 34 with a 7-4 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies on Sunday to avoid a three-game sweep.

Edwin Encarnacion had a two-run shot and rookie Eric Thames also connected for the Blue Jays in the eighth to chase Lee.

Octavio Dotel (2-1) pitched 1 2-3 innings for the win.

Lee (9-6) gave up a season-high seven runs—six earned—and 10 hits in 7 1-3 innings. He walked none and struck out nine.

The left-hander, who went 5-0 with an 0.21 ERA in five June starts, had not lost since May 31 at Washington and came in having pitched three consecutive shutouts. He extended his scoreless innings streak to 34 before giving up a run in the third.

AP

Toronto Blue Jays' Jose Bautista slides safely into third base during sixth inning of a baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies, Sunday, July 3, 2011, in Toronto.

Angels 3, Dodgers 1

At Anaheim, Russell Branyan hit a tie-breaking two-run homer for the Angels in the seventh inning, while Ervin Santana pitched into the eighth for his first victory in more than a month.

Santana (4-8) allowed a run and six hits in 7 2-3 innings. Scott Downs got the last out of the eighth and rookie Jordan Walden pitched a perfect ninth for his 19th save in 25 chances.

Marlins 6, Rangers 4

At Arlington, Logan Morrison hit a tie-breaking two-run double in the eighth inning as Florida posted a winning road trip under 80-year-old interim manager Jack McKeon.

Rangers starter C.J. Wilson, picked as an All-Star by his manager earlier in the day, struck out nine but left with one out in the eighth and the tying run at third base. Florida got even and went ahead against three relievers.

The Marlins, last in the NL East, won two of three in the series to wrap up a 5-4 trip. They have a 6-6 win-loss record since McKeon became their manager again after Edwin Rodriguez resigned.

Red Sox 2, Astros 1

At Houston, Boston scored the go-ahead run on a walk by Mark Melancon in the ninth inning to secure a series sweep.

Josh Beckett (7-3) allowed five hits, a run and no walks while striking out a season-high 11 in eight innings.

Drew Sutton pinch-hit for Beckett to open the ninth and drew a one-out walk. Jacoby Ellsbury followed with a single to right field before Dustin Pedroia grounded into a forceout to leave runners at the corners.

The Astros intentionally walked Adrian Gonzalez, the major league RBI leader, to load the bases before Melancon (5-2), the Astros closer, walked Kevin Youkilis to make it 2-1.

Reds 7, Indians 5

At Cincinnati, Edgar Renteria hit his first homer since his World Series MVP performance, helping the Reds break out of their offensive slump and beat Cleveland, their only win of the season against their intrastate rival.

Chris Heisey also homered off Mitch Talbot (2-5), who has struggled since returning from a sore elbow. The Reds piled up six runs and 10 hits in his four innings.

Mike Leake (8-4) became the Reds' first eight-game winner, matching his career high with eight strikeouts in six innings.

Rays 8, Cardinals 3

At St. Petersburg, Johnny Damon drove in four runs for Tampa Bay, while Jeremy Hellickson (8-7) allowed three runs and six hits in 7 1-3 innings.

The Rays had been outscored 20-1 during the right-hander's skid.

Kyle Farnsworth pitched the final 1 2-3 innings for his 17th save.

Tigers 6, Giants 3

At Detroit, Magglio Ordonez hit a go-ahead, two-run single with two outs in the seventh inning as the Tigers avoided a three-game sweep.

The Tigers fired pitching coach Rick Knapp after the game and replaced him with bullpen coach Jeff Jones.

Rick Porcello (7-6) gave up three runs and five hits over seven innings in a much-needed performance for Detroit's suddenly shaky rotation. He was effectively wild, becoming the fifth pitcher since 1919 to have three wild pitches and hit three batters in a game.

All-Star Jose Valverde closed the game for his 20th save in as many chances.

Orioles 5, Braves 4

At Atlanta, Mark Reynolds hit a two-run homer in the seventh inning and Nick Markakis had a career-high five hits as Baltimore ended its five-game skid.

Zach Britton gave up three runs in five-plus innings and hit his first career homer. Jim Johnson (5-1) gave up one run in two innings.

The Braves had their five-game winning streak snapped and were denied their third straight interleague sweep.

Kevin Gregg pitched a perfect ninth for his 15th save.

Markakis hit a one-out single off Scott Proctor (1-2) in the seventh before Reynolds smashed the go-ahead homer, his 18th, into the left-field seats.

Cubs 3, White Sox 1

At Chicago, veteran Rodrigo Lopez allowed two hits in seven shutout innings and Aramis Ramirez homered as the Cubs beat the White Sox to salvage the finale of a three-game series at Wrigley Field.

The White Sox captured the season crosstown series 4-2 with both Cubs' victories coming against Gavin Floyd.

Twins 9, Brewers 7

At Minneapolis, Danny Valencia delivered another bases-loaded hit, a two-run single that capped a four-run seventh inning as the Twins rallied for a victory.

Valencia is 8 for 13 with the bases loaded this season.

Rene Tosoni homered and drove in three runs for Minnesota, which trailed Zack Greinke by 6-1 in the fourth inning. Jim Thome hit his 595th career homer for the Twins.

Mark Kotsay homered and drove in three runs for the Brewers, who lost for the fifth time in six games.

Royals 16, Rockies 8

At Denver, Melky Cabrera homered twice and drove in five runs as Kansas City equaled a team record with 12 extra-base hits and outslugged Carlos Gonzalez and the Colorado Rockies.

Gonzalez homered and tied a career high with six RBIs. But he left in the seventh inning after he ran into the center-field wall and injured his right wrist.

Cabrera and Eric Hosmer, who also homered, had four hits apiece as Kansas City ended a five-game losing streak. Mike Moustakas and Jeff Francoeur each got three of the Royals' season-high 21 hits.

Mariners 3, Padres 1

At Seattle, Blake Beavan pitched seven impressive innings of one-run ball in his major league debut, and Ichiro Suzuki had two hits and scored twice for the Mariners.

Seattle took five of six against San Diego in interleague play.

Beavan (1-0) was starting in place of Erik Bedard, who went on the 15-day disabled list earlier this week with a sprained left knee.

Beavan allowed just three hits and struck out four. David Pauley pitched the eighth and All-Star Brandon League picked up his 22nd save in 25 chances in the ninth.

Mets 3, Yankees 2, 10 innings

At New York, Pinch-hitter Ronny Paulino came through with a tying single off Mariano Rivera, Jason Bay drove home the winning run in the 10th inning and the Mets ended the Yankees' seven-game winning streak.

Playing without an ailing Jose Reyes, the Mets were shut down by Freddy Garcia for seven innings before rallying against Rivera in the ninth to avoid a Subway Series sweep at Citi Field.

Pinch-hitter Scott Hairston drew a leadoff walk from Luis Ayala (1-2) in the 10th and the Mets loaded the bases when Pena booted Daniel Murphy's slow grounder with two outs.

Athletics 7, Diamondbacks 2

At Oakland, California, Conor Jackson and Scott Sizemore each hit two-run homers and All-Star Gio Gonzalez struck out seven for the Athletics.

David DeJesus also drove in two runs for the A's, who won for the fourth time in 11 games since a six-game winning streak ended.

Xavier Nady and Sean Burroughs drove in runs for the Diamondbacks, who lost their third consecutive series and have lost four of their last five games.

Gonzalez (8-5) allowed a run and walked three in seven innings.

Pirates 10, Nationals 2

At Washington, In the one NL game, Pittsburgh scored three in the first and five in the second, helping give Kevin Correia his 11th win of the season and earning a split in its four-game series with the Nationals.

Correia (11-6) allowed two runs and six hits over six innings to become the first Pirates pitcher to win 11 games before the All-Star break since Jim Bibby in 1980.

The Pirates battered Jason Marquis (7-3), who lost for the first time in eight starts. He lasted only 1 1-3 innings, allowing seven runs and eight hits as the Nationals dropped to 2-5 under manager Davey Johnson.

No free agency now, maybe no NBA games later

NEW YORK (AP)—No free agency now, maybe no games later.

The NBA lockout claimed a quick casualty in Day 1, when the free agency period did not open as usual on July 1.

Games eventually could be lost, too, if owners and players can't make progress whenever they start talking again.

"It's going to get ugly. I've already been on the record saying I don't think they're going to play at all next season," Hall of Famer and TNT analyst Charles Barkley said Friday.

The last lockout reduced the 1998-99 season to 50 games, and players say they're prepared to hang in as long as necessary this time, rather than agree to the financial changes owners are seeking.

The silence of this July 1 was a sad contrast to the dizzying events of exactly one year earlier, when LeBron James welcomed the New York Knicks and New Jersey Nets to Cleveland to hear their pitches, and teams crisscrossed the country in pursuit of other stars that were available.

Interest in the league surged from there, right on through the NBA finals that drew some of the best TV ratings the event had seen in years.

"Basketball as a sport is in such a great place right now. It's a shame it came to this," agent Marc Cornstein said. "Hopefully, we can resolve this in a fair and equitable way."

And, owners would add, a profitable one. Tired of losing millions in a system that has guaranteed players 57 percent of revenues, they want an overhaul that would allow small-market teams to compete with the big spenders, and all of them to make money.

Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver has said some teams would be better off if there were no games this season, though stressed no owner wanted that to happen. The NHL shut down for a year to get the salary cap system it sought. With NBA owners seeking the same result, the question is: Would they be willing to take the same route?

"I'm not scared. I'm resigned to the potential damage that it can cause to our league, all of the people that earn a living from our league," Commissioner David Stern said. "As we get deeper into it, these things have the capacity to take on a life of their own. You never can predict what will happen."

Watney flawless to win by 2 shots at Aronimink

NEWTOWN SQUARE, Pa. (AP)—Never mind that Nick Watney was the highest-ranked player at the AT&T National, or that he won a World Golf Championship in March. Stepping to the first tee Sunday in a tie for the lead at the AT&T National, he had reason to feel overlooked.

After being announced, one fan called out, "Go, Rickie!" Several other fans in the large gallery wore bright orange shirts and flat-brimmed caps to show their support for Rickie Fowler, a 22-year-old who was tied for the lead and going after that first PGA Tour win.

"He's obviously a very popular player. I think his time is definitely coming," Watney said. "I would say there were probably a few more Fowler fans out there. But it is what it is. Sometimes you play away games or whatever."

Watney doesn't have the panache of Fowler, but his game is starting to get plenty of attention.

Playing the weekend at Aronimink in a staggering 12 under, and going the final 27 holes without a bogey, Watney closed with a 4-under 66 for a two-shot victory over K.J. Choi (67) to win for the second time this year and move to No. 10 in the world.

Watney, whose other win this year was a World Golf Championship against an elite field at Doral, also put himself atop the FedEx Cup standings and the PGA Tour money list for the first time.

"It's a very addictive feeling to be out there and under the gun," said Watney, who had rounds of 62-66 on the weekend. "To be able to hit good shots and putts is why I play, really."

And to think that with only 27 holes left in the tournament, Watney was trying to keep from getting left behind. Ten birdies, an eagle and no bogeys later, he was posing with the silver trophy of a Liberty Bell and wondering how much better he could get.

Watney finished on 13-under 267, tying the tournament record by Tiger Woods in 2009 when it was played at Congressional. The tournament is scheduled to return to Congressional next year.

Charles Howell III earned quite a consolation prize. He played bogey-free in the final round for a 6-under 66 to tie for third with Adam Scott (68) and Jeff Overton (67). That made him eligible for the British Open in two weeks as the top finisher from the top five who wasn't already exempt.

Fowler had another learning experience.

He fell out of the hunt early with a double bogey on the second hole when he hit three straight shots without losing his turn. From a tough spot in the bunker, he came up well short of the green, barely got his putt up the slope, then ran his bogey attempt a nervy 3 feet beyond the hole. That became a three-shot swing when Watney made birdie, and Fowler never caught up. He finished with a 74 to tie for 13th.

AP

Nick Watney holds the trophy after winning the AT&T National golf tournament at Aronimink Golf Club, Sunday, July 3, 2011, in Newtown Square, Pa.

"I just couldn't get anything going today," he said.

Watney didn't give anyone much of a chance. He took the outright lead with a wedge into 10 feet for birdie on No. 2, and holed a 20-foot birdie putt on the par-5 fifth. Despite leaving himself in a tough spot in the bunker on the par-5 ninth, he blasted out to 2 feet for another birdie.

Even so, his biggest putts were for par.

Watney saved par from bunkers on No. 4 with a 20-foot putt, and from No. 7 with a putt from about 12 feet. His biggest par save might have been the par-3 eighth, which yielded only two birdies in the final round.

Overton had reached 9 under and was making a move, and Choi had birdied the previous to also reach 9 under. Watney's shot went over the green, and he putted up the slope to 18 feet. He made the par putt to keep his cushion.

"That was big not to drop a shot after hitting a good shot, and keep momentum heading to the back nine," Watney said.

The final challenge came from Choi, who trailed by four shots at one point. He slowly made up ground, then closed in on Watney after the turn with a bending, downhill birdie putt on the 11th and a pair of long birdie putts on the 12th and 14th holes, the last one tying for the lead.

Momentum was with Choi, only the South Korean knew better. The par-4 15th played at 503 yards into a slight breeze, following by the par-5 16th that was reachable in two.

"When I tied him on the 14th hole, I knew that there was still a lot of holes to go, and I knew the remaining holes were more favorable to Nick Watney," Choi said. "I knew the 15th hole would be a turning point. That was a key hole, and I missed it. So I think that was the turning point of the match."

Choi pulled his shot into the left rough, then tried to hit 5-wood toward the green. The thick grass shut his club and sent the shot into a bunker, some 60 yards from the pin, and so close to the side that his legs were pressed against the edge of the bunker. Choi hit a solid shot, but it took one more hop into the rough, he chipped out to 12 feet and missed the putt.

Watney was just short of the green and lagged his putt from 75 feet to 5 feet, converting yet another important par.

On the next hole, Watney used his power to smash a drive that left him only a 7-iron to the green, and he again hit a good lag for a two-putt birdie. His seventh and final par save came from just behind the 17th green, and his chip stopped 2 feet from the cup.

Watney earned $1.116 million and became the first player this year to top $4 million on tour.

"I'm overjoyed to be in here as the winner," Watney said. "It was a very difficult, long day. K.J. played great golf and he kept coming and coming. And that makes it even more rewarding."

Garmin-Cervelo wins team time trial at Tour

LES ESSARTS, France (AP)—He's a 30-something American, a retired former rider and crowned with success at the Tour de France.

And Jonathan Vaughters is also a leading anti-doping crusader in cycling.

Sunday afternoon, Garmin-Cervelo riders hoisted Vaughters, their manager, in the air in glory after the nine-man squad won the Tour's team time trial in Stage 2, a flat 14 miles in and around Les Essarts in western France.

Competing in its fourth Tour, Garmin-Cervelo was popping the champagne after its first-ever stage win at cycling's greatest race.

For Vaughters, the victory was especially sweet because Thor Hushovd of Norway—a Garmin-Cervelo rider and former teammate years ago—took the yellow jersey off Philippe Gilbert, a Belgian who won the first stage.

"This is an extraordinary dream, I'm very proud, I'm very happy to take the jersey—and that the team won the stage," said Hushovd, who won the team time trial at the 2001 Tour with Vaughters when both rode for now-defunct French squad Credit Agricole. "This is a great day, we did a really good team effort, everything worked perfectly."

The Norwegian leads teammate David Millar in second, with the same time. Cadel Evans of Australia is third, 1 second back.

Vaughters calls Garmin-Cervelo "an anti-doping team. We are not an anti-ex-doper team," pointing to Millar, who served a two-year doping ban.

The 38-year-old and former teammate of seven-time Tour champion Lance Armstrong is one of the most vocal opponents of doping in cycling and has sought to build a clean team. He said the sport has made important strides to rid drug cheats from the peloton, but the work isn't yet complete.

Some in cycling, Vaughters said, think "'if I talk about it, it's just going to be in the newspaper more, then it's going to give the public the idea that everyone is doing it'—which in my opinion, is the exact opposite of what is true."

But when asked if he had been involved in doping himself, Vaughters declined to answer.

"A lot of the energy and the passion I have now that I put into anti-doping is derived from my past mistakes and my past experiences," he told The Associated Press. "Beyond that, I don't want to get into it."

"I want the focus to be on the riders who are racing today," Vaughters said.

Those riders, too, have a hard time deflecting questions about doping.

Defending champion Alberto Contador has been riding amid controversy. He tested positive for the banned muscle builder clenbuterol during the Tour last year, but has denied any wrongdoing. The Spanish three-time Tour winner could be stripped of his latest title if the Court of Arbitration for Sport rules against him next month.

Some Tour fans have been unforgiving: He again faced roadside boos on Sunday. Worse, he lost even more time.

After losing time because of a crash in Saturday's stage, Contador lost even more Sunday as his Saxo Bank team finished 28 seconds behind Garmin-Cervelo. He is 75th overall, 1:42 behind Hushovd.

Cycling'simage has been battered by multiple doping scandals in recent years, and some linger still.

U.S. federal authorities are investigating whether Armstrong and his former U.S. Postal team participated in a systematic doping program. Armstrong, who won the Tour every year from 1999-2005, has steadfastly denied doping and has never failed a drug test.

Vaughters, a former member of the U.S. Postal team, said he has not been contacted by special investigator Jeff Novitsky but would abide by the law if asked to testify.

In recent years the International Cycling Union, responding to the ever present doping scandals, has put in place some of the most stringent anti-doping measures in sport—in hopes of both catching those who dope now and dissuading young riders from doing so.

"That work has been good, and it needs to continue. It doesn't mean ... we're running up the victory flag or anything," Vaughters said. "It's gonna be a war. Every single year we have to keep on top of it, and as long we do that, I'm confident that clean riders can win big races."

Party Rockers, Aye Parr Battay win debuts

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2011 BANMI Women's Summer Basketball League kicked off last Friday with Aye Parr Battay and Party Rockers prevailing in their respective debuts at the TSL Sports Complex.

Aye Parr Battay played in the curtain raiser and nailed a come-from-behind 63-52 victory over Mix-A-Lot. In the second game, Party Rockers routed Lazy Buttss, 72-52.

Aye Parr Battay took the 11-point win despite a depleted lineup. Only five of the 11 players in Aye Parr Battay's roster showed up in the league's opening game. Then after only few minutes in the second half, Aye Parr Battay was down to four players as Jamie Mendoza was injured, following a collision in the paint.

Mix-A-Lot opted to also play with four players and the ploy backfired as after leading most of the way in the first half, the team was stuck at 40 points for more than five minutes. Mendoza momentarily returned, but went out anew in the last four minutes of the game.

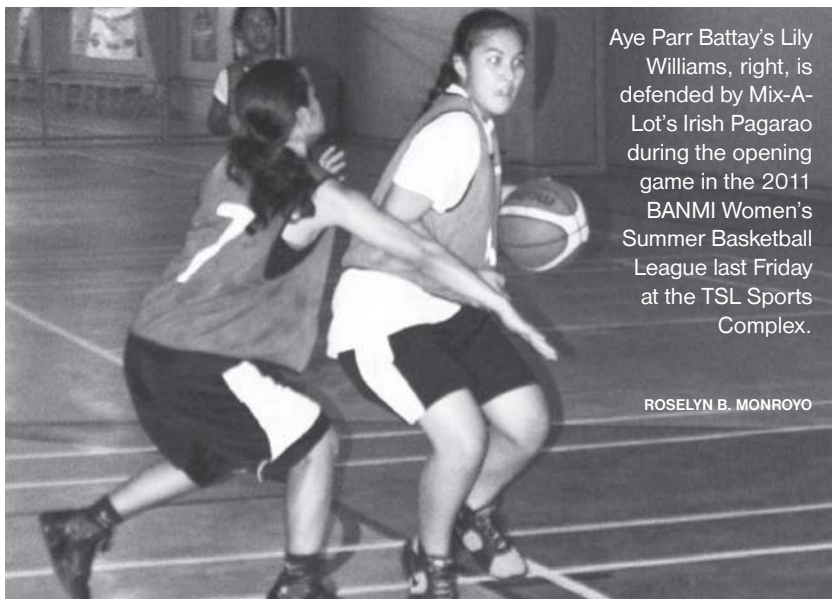
With Mendoza definitely out of the match, Lily Williams and Joanna Palero stepped up in the closing stages of the game to grab the lead. Vanessa Bartolo and Jeralyn Castillo also contributed with their fastbreak layups and Aye Parr Battay entered the last two-minute mark on top by eight, 56-48.

Aye Parr Battay hung in there and Bartolo put the finishing touches on their debut win, scoring six of the team's last eight points.

Williams paced Aye Parr Battay with 25 markers, while Palero had 18. Bartolo chipped in nine and Castillo added eight.

In the second game, Party Rockers broke away early in the first half en route to a 20-point victory.

Party Rockers, who are composed of the core of the CNMI U15 Team that finished second in last month's Micronesian Basketball Tournament in Palau, escaped with several fastbreak layups in the first 10 minutes of play for a big 38-15 halftime advantage.



Aye Parr Battay's Lily Williams, right, is defended by Mix-A-Lot's Irish Pagarao during the opening game in the 2011 BANMI Women's Summer Basketball League last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ira Palero and Daylinne Joseph picked up the scoring for Lazy Buttss, but still the team fell short, as Party Rockers found a way to break its foe's trapping defense midway in the second half.

Rachel Abrams top-scored for Party Rockers with 20 points, while Jeraldine Castillo had 16, and Melody Johnson and Kaylani Lebria contributed 11 apiece.

Palero led all scorers with 23, while Joseph tallied 12.

Games in the women's league are played every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The four participating team will play in a three-round robin regular season. Format in the playoffs has yet to be announced.

First Game

Aye Parr Battay 63 – Williams 25, Palero 18, Bartolo 9, Castillo 8, Mendoza 3.

Mix-A-Lot 52 – Pagarao 24, Iriate 8, Mesa 6, Hofschneider 6, Alegre 6, De Luna 2.

Scoring by halves: 27-32, 63-52.

Second Game

Party Rockers 72 – Abrams 20, Castillo 16, Johnson 11, Lebria 11, Ito 8, Gozon 7.

Lazy Buttsss 52 – Palero 23, Joseph 12, Pialug 8, Javier 4, Lizardo 2, Monroyo 2, Rios 1.

Scoring by halves: 38-15, 72-52.

SMLBA youth league meeting tonight

The Saipan Major League Baseball Association is holding an organizational meeting for the upcoming youth summer/fall baseball season tonight at 6:30pm at the pavilion adjacent to the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. All coaches and league officials are urged to attend.

The season is still expected to commence later this month. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

DJOKOVIC

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final four.

For so many years, Federer and Nadal ruled tennis. One or the other was No. 1 every week since February 2004. One or the other won 22 of the last 26 Grand Slam tournaments, including Nadal's 10 titles.

But now Djokovic owns three of the other four trophies in that span—2009 U.S. Open champion Juan Martin del Potro has the other—and finally elbowed his way past that pair in the rankings.

"We all know the careers of Nadal and Federer. ... They have been the two most dominant players in the world the last five years. They have won most of the majors," Djokovic said. "So sometimes it did feel a little bit frustrating when you kind of get to the later stages of a Grand Slam - meaning last four, last eight - and then you have to meet them. They always come up with their best tennis when it matters the most. ... I always believed that I have (enough) quality to beat those two guys."

Djokovic was 0-5 against Nadal at Grand Slam tournaments entering Sunday—including retirements from a 2006 French Open quarterfinal and 2007 Wimbledon semifinal.

A more significant head-to-head record, though, is one both men acknowledged played a role Sunday: Remarkably, Djokovic is 5-0 against Nadal this year, all in tournament finals, two on hard courts, two on clay courts, and now one on grass.

"When one player beat you five times, (it's) because today my game don't bother him a lot," Nadal said after his 20-match Wimbledon winning streak ended. "Probably, the mental part is little bit dangerous for me."

That showed at the first key point, 40 minutes into the final. Djokovic led 5-4, but neither player was having the least bit of trouble holding serve. Nadal went up 30-love in that 10th game, but Djokovic then won four consecutive points to claim the first set.

"Rafael was too nervous at that big moment," said Toni Nadal, the player's coach and uncle.

Djokovic ran away with the second set, by doing precisely what Nadal has to so many opponents: sprinting to chase down apparent winners and get them back over the net, extending the point. According to the AP's tally, Djokovic won 18 of the match's 28 points that lasted 10 strokes or more.

"When you play against these players, and they are playing unbelievable, the normal thing is (to) lose," said Nadal, who punched his racket after missing one forehand in the last game.

Djokovic's forehand was mostly on-target. He hit 22 winners and only four unforced errors through two sets, and never faced a break point—or even was taken to deuce—on his serve during that span.

But there was no way it could continue to be that easy, both because Djokovic simply couldn't sustain that level of spectacular play forever, and because the resilient Nadal wasn't likely to pack it in.

As gray clouds began to gather overhead, shutting out the azure sky, Nadal picked up his game, and Djokovic finally faltered somewhat, saying later: "I relaxed a little bit too much in the start of the third set. I wasn't focused."

Nadal broke twice in that set, the second time when Djokovic contributed his lone double-fault of the afternoon, and suddenly it appeared that things were more competitive. As it turned out, the third set was merely a half-hour aberration during a 2 1/2-hour coronation, because Djokovic regained the upper hand.

He led 4-3 in the fourth set when Nadal played a shaky game, double-faulting, pushing a backhand wide, then slapping a forehand into the net on an 11-stroke point that Djokovic kept alive by sliding into position and nearly doing the splits while hitting a backhand.

That gave Djokovic three break points, and on the second, Nadal missed a backhand on the 15th stroke.

Now with a chance to serve it out, Djokovic was cool and composed—and even a little crafty, playing serve-and-volley for only the third time all match. His backhand volley gave him a championship point, and Djokovic converted it when Nadal sent a backhand long.

As Djokovic reveled in his newfound status as Wimbledon winner, Nadal was left to contemplate his first loss to someone other than Federer in a Grand Slam final.

During this tournament, Djokovic recalled watching Wimbledon two decades ago as a kid in war-torn Serbia and thinking that he'd love to play tennis. On Sunday, there he was, on the most famous court in the world, with Serbian President Boris Tadic up in the Royal Box.

Djokovic already was the first man from Serbia to win any Grand Slam title. Now he's the first to win Wimbledon and the first to earn the No. 1 ranking, and he'll be feted at a downtown square in Belgrade on Monday.

Whatever Djokovic had to overcome—a lack of self-belief and fitness issues, among them—the biggest obstacles might very well have been a couple of guys named Federer and Nadal.

"It's very hard for four years to be No. 3, you know? You cannot (make this) step, this one step to move on. Now he did it, so this is the most important thing," Djokovic's mother, Dijana, said Sunday evening.

When a reporter began a question by saying, "For years, it's been Rafa, Roger, Rafa, Roger," Mom interrupted to clarify: "Yeah, now it's Novak, Novak, Novak."

MINOR

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ond set and extended the match with a 4-2 recovery. In the deciding third set, Minor and Howe went back and forth, but the former showed composure in the end to eke out a tiring 10-8 win.

In the semifinals last Sunday, Minor battled Vanuatu's Lorraine Banimataku and the CNMI netter had another exhausting three-set game. Regular scoring was implemented in the semifinals and Minor drew first blood with a close 7-5 victory. Banimataku regained her bearings in the second set with a commanding 6-1 victory. The third set was another nip-and-tuck affair for Minor and this time she ran out of steam and lost, 8-10.

Banimataku eventually lost gas, when she faltered in the finals against No. 14 seed Brogan Maoate of New Zealand, 3-6, 4-6.

In the boys consolation draw, Minor's teammate—fellow CNMI netter Rafael Jones—was paired against New Zealand's Jonathan Wilson and bowed in straight sets, 0-4, 2-4. Jones also dropped his opening match in the main draw over the unseeded Robin Hao Nguy of Hong Kong, 1-6, 0-6.

Great Britain's Ryan Peniston topped the consolation draw after beating New Zealand's Olly Sadler, 6-3, 6-1.

In the boys main draw, top seed and Australia's Jay Andrijic was scheduled to face No. 2 pick and New Zealand's Cameron Norrie in yesterday's finals. In the girls singles, it was also a battle between the Top 2 seeds with Hong Kong's Katherine Ip squaring off against Australia's Celine Lenertz.

The event in Fiji was under the ITF Junior Circuit and is a Grade 4 tournament that awards 40 Junior ITF ranking points to the champion, 30 to runner-up, 20 to semifinalists, 15 to quarterfinalists, and 10 to losers in the Round of 16.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLG STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	50	32	.610	_
Boston	49	34	.590	1Ω
Tampa Bay	47	37	.560	4
Toronto	41	44	.482	10Ω
Baltimore	36	45	.444	13Ω
Central Division				
Cleveland	44	38	.537	_
Detroit	45	40	.529	Ω
Chicago	42	43	.494	3Ω
Minnesota	36	46	.439	8
Kansas City	34	50	.405	11
West Division				
Los Angeles	44	41	.518	_
Texas	44	41	.518	_
Seattle	41	43	.488	2Ω
Oakland	38	47	.447	6

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	53	32	.624	_
Atlanta	49	36	.576	4
New York	42	42	.500	10Ω
Washington	42	43	.494	11
Florida	38	46	.452	14Ω
Central Division				
Milwaukee	45	40	.529	_
St. Louis	45	40	.529	_
Pittsburgh	43	41	.512	1Ω
Cincinnati	43	42	.506	2
Chicago	35	50	.412	10
Houston	29	56	.341	16
West Division				
San Francisco	48	37	.565	_
Arizona	45	40	.529	3
Colorado	41	43	.488	6Ω
San Diego	38	47	.447	10
Los Angeles	37	48	.435	11

Sunday's Games

Detroit 6, San Francisco 3
Toronto 7, Philadelphia 4
Cincinnati 7, Cleveland 5
N.Y. Mets 3, N.Y. Yankees 2, 10 innings
Baltimore 5, Atlanta 4
Pittsburgh 10, Washington 2
Tampa Bay 8, St. Louis 3
Boston 2, Houston 1
Minnesota 9, Milwaukee 7
Chicago Cubs 3, Chicago White Sox 1
Kansas City 16, Colorado 8
Oakland 7, Arizona 2
Seattle 3, San Diego 1
Florida 6, Texas 4
L.A. Angels 3, L.A. Dodgers 1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RULUKED

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Lizama and the Mobil duo of Jun Estolas and Marvin Rabauliman.

Konflikt Ali'i's Jawn Joyner won Best Defensive Player honors; Sonics' Mike Eclevia won Best in Assists; Prospect's Derrick Aughenbaugh won Best in Blocked Shots; Blue Haus' Rodney Sacramento finished the season as Best in Steals; and Ferrera Builders' James Abuy was declared regular season Three-Point King.

In addition, Rollers Madness' Ivan De Vero was deemed Scoring Machine, while his QQ Cup player's choice teammate, Zack Babauta, won the Best Sportsmanship Player award. Ferrera Builders' Mike Cruz was also chosen the Darling of the Crowd.

Meanwhile, Smart's Errol Peredo won MVP honors during the All-Star Game that was featured last Monday, June 27. Rollers Happiness' Fred Litulumar also topped a field of eight competitors during halftime of the match to win the All-Star Three-Point King trophy.

"The QQ Cup League committee is very satisfied with the execution of our sophomore season. Still, we are always looking for ways to improve the league and are excited to kick off our third QQ Cup season some time near the end of this year. We would like to thank again all the sponsors, the players and especially all of the fans who came out to witness the action," said QQ Cup league director Rey Perez in a phone interview yesterday.

QQ organizers are aiming to start the third season sometime between September and November 2011.

2011 IT&E Singles/Doubles Badminton Tournament

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Vic Reyes and Noli Santos (green uniforms) lead the Top 3 placers in the men's B doubles.

The Top 3 placers in the women's C singles pose with tournament organizers and guest Oceania Badminton regional development manager Nadia Bleaken, left.

From left, men's A singles semifinalists Mario Diola and Ferdie Arago, runner-up Dick Guintu, and champion Andrew Galvez receive their medals.

Men's B1 singles champion Noli Santos, left, poses with runner-up Gary Bandoja and semifinalists Mario Diola and Saul Gargallo.

From left, men's C singles third placer Dick Koo, runner-up Jerome Malasarte, and champion Luis Camacho.

Men's B2 singles champion Rodwealth Espana, left, poses with runner-up Vic Reyes and semifinalist Chris Hilario.

Oceania Badminton regional development manager Nadia Bleaken, third from right, poses with the Top 4 finishers in the women's C doubles event and organizers of the 2011 IT&E Singles/Doubles Badminton Tournament late last month at the TSL Sports Complex.

Men's C doubles Top 3 finishers are all smiles after receiving their medals.

The Top 4 finishers in the women's B doubles pose for a group photo.

The Top 4 finishers in the women's A doubles smile for the camera.

Bautista hits 27th homer as Blue Jays beat Phils

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Watney flawless to win by 2 shots at Aronimink

PAGE 25

Djokovic beats Nadal for Wimbledon title

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP TENNIS WRITER

AP

Serbia's Novak Djokovic lifts the trophy after defeating Spain's Rafael Nadal in the men's singles final at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, Sunday, July 3, 2011.

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Until Sunday, Novak Djokovic never managed to win a grass-court tournament of any sort, let alone Wimbledon.

Until Sunday, Djokovic never was able to beat Rafael Nadal in a Grand Slam match, let alone a final.

Until this marvelous—and nearly perfect—year, Djokovic was very good. Now he's great.

After outrunning, outswinging and, for stretches, dominating defending champion Nadal, winning 6-4, 6-1, 1-6, 6-3 for his first title at the All England Club and third major championship overall, Djokovic crouched on Center Court, reached down, plucked some blades of grass and shoved them in his mouth.

"I felt like an animal. I wanted to see how it tastes. It tastes good," Djokovic said later, his eyes wide and his smile contagious. "It came spontaneously, really. I didn't plan to do it. I didn't know what to do for my excitement and joy."

Putting together one of the best seasons by any athlete in any sport in recent memory, Djokovic is 48-1 with eight titles in 2011, including major trophies from the Australian Open and Wimbledon. On Monday, he will rise from No. 2 to No. 1 in the ATP rankings, overtaking Nadal, a switch that was guaranteed by virtue of Djokovic's victory in the semifinals Friday.

"I want to win more Grand Slams," said Djokovic, the first man since Andre Agassi in 1992 to win his first grass title at Wimbledon. "I will not definitely stop here, even though I have achieved (the) two biggest things in my life in three days."

Which, perhaps, is why he engaged in such a lengthy and original celebration, even tossing several rackets into the stands, the sort of crowd-pleasing gesture for which Djokovic (it's pronounced JOE-ko-vich) long has been known.

Indeed, early in his career, Djokovic stood out less for his shot-making than for his showmanship—check out his spot-on impersonations of other pros, including Nadal, on YouTube—and a hard-to-explain propensity for losing, or even quitting during, late-round matches at majors.

Right now, though, the 24-year-old from Serbia is the total package, with the bona fides to prove it.

He credits a handful of factors with helping him truly excel recently: more maturity; confidence from helping Serbia win its first Davis Cup title in December; and a gluten-free diet he doesn't like to discuss in any detail.

Djokovic's only loss all season came against 16-time major champion Roger Federer in the French Open semifinals a month ago, Djokovic's seventh exit from a Grand Slam tournament in the

See DJOKOVIC on Page 26

Minor makes semis in Fiji tournament

Minor

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI junior netter Thea Minor advanced to the semifinals of the consolation draw of the 2011 Air Pacific South Pacific Open Junior Championships at the Dr. Robin Mitchell Regional Tennis Centre in Lautoka, Fiji.

Minor, who dropped her first match in the main draw, losing to the No. 15 seed Hine Elizabeth Wilson of New Zealand, 6-7 (6), 3-6, gained a bye in the Round 2 of the consolation draw. She then won over New Zealand's Alexandra Howe in three sets last Saturday to march into the semifinals

The Commonwealth netter played poorly in the opening set and lost, 0-4, but redeemed herself in the sec-

See MINOR on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Mobil's Gyles Ruluked smiles after accepting his award for Most Rebounds in the season during the QQ Car Rental caging awards presentation that took place at half time of Game 2 of the best-of-three finals series between Mobil and Smart Cagers Saturday night at the Garapan Basketball Court. Ruluked was later named finals most valuable player for his part in Mobil's come-from-behind win.

Ruluked hailed as finals MVP

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Mobil's Gyles Ruluked was selected as the most valuable player in the QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup Invitational League best-of-three finals series after Mobil successfully defended its championship following a sweep over top-ranked Smart Cagers Saturday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Ruluked also went home with the Best in Rebounds trophy in the awards presentation that took place during halftime of Saturday's deciding Game 2.

Other winners include regular season MVP Pete Iguel of the runner-up Smart Cagers.

Iguel also made the cut for the league's Best Five roster, joining teammate Darwin Barbo, Sonics' Pedro

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